

Parables - 4/26/26

Week 10

Luke 12

Greg Hartman

The Parable of the Rich Man Who Looked for Good Things in the Wrong Places

I. Parable Review

- A. Parables - stories told alongside real life
- B. Common theme: the Kingdom of God
- C. Our topics:
 - 1. Our desire to live according to our own rules
 - 2. Our God pursues and rejoices: the lost coin, the lost sheep, the lost son
 - 3. What if God isn't fair?
 - 4. Pursuing God through prayer
 - 5. Knowing God = a great treasure
 - 6. Loving our neighbor / Being a neighbor

II. The Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21)

- A. Make my brother share!
- B. Jesus: Watch out for greed
- C. The story:
 - 1. Bumper crop
 - 2. "I'll build bigger barns"
 - 3. "I'll eat, drink, and be merry"
 - 4. God's response: "You fool!"
- D. Ecclesiastes: Everything is meaningless

III. Understanding Greed

- A. It's all about pie.
- B. We want more _____ because we think it brings _____.
- C. The things we want:
 - 1. Money
 - 2. Importance
 - 3. Relationships
- D. What we think we'll get:
 - 1. Happiness
 - 2. Peace
 - 3. Security
 - 4. Value / Self worth

IV. The Response

- A. What would we tell someone else?

B. Jesus's response: Luke 12:22-26; Matthew 6:33,34

C. Maslow's (Inverted) Hierarchy:

1. Know whose you are
2. Know who you are
3. Know your place among people
4. Know who is in control

When tempted by greed, remember whose you are.

LIFEgroup Questions:

1. *Optional Icebreaker: What's the most unnecessary purchase you've ever made that you don't regret at all?*
2. What stands out to you most from the story of the rich fool, and why do you think it matters?
3. People often pursue things hoping they will bring something deeper (like happiness or security). Why do you think we tend to make those connections?
4. Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God instead of trying to control our own situation?
5. What's one simple way this week you could focus more on what truly matters rather than just what you want?