

# 5 Day Devotional

## Day 1: The Danger You Don't See Coming

### Devotional

Most of us would never describe ourselves as greedy. We work hard, we provide for our families, and we enjoy the good things life has to offer. There is nothing wrong with any of that. But greed rarely walks through the front door and introduces itself. It slips in quietly, rearranges your priorities, and before long, the things you own start owning you.

Jesus knew this. In Luke 12, He interrupts a crowd moment to issue a warning that cuts straight to the heart: watch out. Not a gentle suggestion, but an urgent alert. He had seen what the love of money does to a person's soul, and He wanted His followers to take it seriously.

Think about your own life for a moment. The pull to upgrade, accumulate, and secure more is constant. Advertising, social media, and the culture around us all whisper the same message: more is better, and enough is never quite enough. It is a current that is easy to drift with and hard to swim against.

The good news is that God does not leave us to fight this alone. He gives us His Word as a mirror, His Spirit as a guide, and a community of believers to walk alongside us. Recognizing the danger is the first and most important step. You cannot guard against something you refuse to see.

Take a moment today to honestly ask yourself where the pull of more is strongest in your life. That awareness is not condemnation. It is the beginning of freedom.

### Bible Verse

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." - Luke 12:15 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

Where in your daily life do you feel the pull of "more" most strongly, and what does that reveal about what you are trusting in?

### Quote

"Greed is kind of like that carbon monoxide gas that seeps in and you might not notice it, but it can take over one's life."

## **Prayer**

Lord, open my eyes to the ways greed quietly shapes my desires and decisions. Give me the courage to see clearly and the grace to trust You above all things. Amen.

## Day 2: When Stuff Becomes a God

### Devotional

There is a word in Scripture that stops most of us in our tracks when we first encounter it in this context. The Apostle Paul, writing to the church at Colossae, does not describe greed as a bad habit or a character flaw. He calls it idolatry.

That is a serious charge. Idolatry, in the biblical sense, means placing something in the position that belongs to God alone. It means looking to a created thing for the security, identity, and satisfaction that only the Creator can provide. And Paul is saying that greed does exactly that.

The rich farmer in Luke 12 is a vivid picture of this. Listen to how he speaks: I will do this, I will tear down my barns, I will build bigger ones, then I will say to myself. Every sentence orbits around him. God is nowhere in the picture. His abundance had quietly become his God, and He did not even realize it.

This is not a story about a villain. It is a story about a very ordinary human temptation. We are all capable of building our lives around the accumulation of things and calling it wisdom or planning or responsibility.

The encouraging truth of the Reformed faith is that God is sovereign even over our disordered hearts. He does not simply point out the problem and walk away. He calls us to Himself, reorders our loves, and frees us to hold the things of this world with an open hand. That is genuine freedom.

### Bible Verse

"Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry." - Colossians 3:5 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

If you honestly examined your daily decisions around money and possessions, what do they reveal about where you are placing your ultimate trust?

### Quote

"Did you hear in the story about how he uses those first personal pronouns, I, me, mine. I know what I'll do. I'll build bigger barns. Then I can eat and drink and be merry."

### Prayer

Father, expose any idol that has taken root in my heart and replace it with a deeper love for You.  
Remind me that You alone are my security and my satisfaction. Amen.

## Day 3: A Life That Vanishes Like Mist

### Devotional

We spend a great deal of energy building things that will not last. Careers, portfolios, reputations, collections. None of these are wrong in themselves, but they all share one important characteristic: they are temporary.

James 4 asks a question that is worth sitting with today. What is your life? His answer is humbling. You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. That is not meant to discourage you. It is meant to reorient you.

When you understand how brief life truly is, it changes what you reach for. The farmer in Luke 12 made plans as though he had unlimited time. He would eat, drink, and be merry for many years. But God had a different timeline, and the farmer had no say in it. His barns were full and his soul was empty.

This is not a call to reckless living or to ignore the future. Wise stewardship is a biblical virtue. But there is a difference between planning wisely and clinging desperately. One holds the future with an open hand before God. The other grips it tightly and leaves no room for Him.

You are not defined by what you accumulate. You are defined by whose you are. You are a child of God, made in His image, called to reflect His character in the world. That identity does not fade, depreciate, or get stored in a unit off the highway. It is eternal, and it is secure in Him.

### Bible Verse

"Show me, Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is." - Psalm 39:4 (New International Version (NIV))

### Reflection Question

If you knew your time was shorter than you assumed, what would you stop clinging to, and what would you invest in more deeply?

### Quote

"What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."

### Prayer

Lord, remind me today of the brevity of life and the weight of eternity. Help me to hold loosely the things that are passing and to invest deeply in what lasts forever. Amen.

# Day 4: Rich Toward God, Generous Toward Others

## Devotional

Jesus does not just warn us away from greed. He points us toward something better. He calls it being rich toward God, and it is one of the most freeing invitations in all of Scripture.

Being rich toward God is not a vague spiritual feeling. It takes shape in real, daily decisions. It looks like using your skills to serve others rather than only to advance yourself. It looks like giving generously, even when it costs you something. It looks like seeing the people around you as image-bearers of God, worthy of your time and attention, not just as background characters in your own story.

Norman Borlaug grew up in Iowa, studied plant science, and spent his life helping developing nations grow more food. He is credited with saving over one billion lives. He was not famous in the way the world measures fame, but he was extraordinarily rich toward God and toward others.

You do not have to save a billion lives to live this way. You simply have to begin where you are, with what you have, for the good of the people God has placed around you. A meal shared, a gift given, a skill offered, a burden carried together. These are the building blocks of a life that is rich in the ways that matter most.

God has given you gifts, time, talent, and resources, not so that you can build bigger barns, but so that you can be a blessing. That is a calling worth waking up for.

## Bible Verse

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." - Micah 6:8 (New International Version (NIV))

## Reflection Question

What is one specific gift, skill, or resource you have that you could use this week to help someone else flourish?

## Quote

"Our Lord calls for us to use them in such a way that adds to not only our flourishing, but the flourishing of others."

## Prayer

Father, thank You for the gifts You have entrusted to me. Give me eyes to see the needs around me and a willing heart to use what I have for the good of others and the glory of Your name. Amen.



# Day 5: Making the Temporary Serve the Eternal

## Devotional

We have spent this week looking honestly at greed, at the brevity of life, and at what it means to be rich toward God. Today we bring it all together with one clarifying idea: the things of this world are not evil. They are simply temporary. And temporary things are meant to serve eternal purposes, not the other way around.

Money is a gift from God. Work is a gift from God. Talent, creativity, and opportunity are all gifts from God. The question is never whether you have them. The question is what they are serving. Are they serving your comfort and security above all else, or are they serving the kingdom of God and the people He loves?

This is the heart of faithful stewardship in the Reformed tradition. We are not owners. We are managers. Everything belongs to God, and He has entrusted a portion of it to each of us for a season. The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. That truth is not a burden. It is a relief. You are not responsible for hoarding it all. You are responsible for using it well.

As you close this week, consider what one step of faithfulness looks like for you. It might be a budget conversation, a giving commitment, a phone call to someone in need, or simply a quiet prayer of surrender. Whatever it is, take it. The life Jesus calls you to is not one of scarcity. It is one of abundance, the kind that multiplies when it is given away.

## Bible Verse

"No one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life." - Luke 18:29-30 (New International Version (NIV))

## Reflection Question

What would it look like in your daily life to intentionally make your temporary resources serve an eternal purpose this week?

## Quote

"Making that which is temporary become the servant of that which is eternal. Out of love for God and a love for our neighbor."

## Prayer

Lord, I surrender what I have to Your purposes. Teach me to hold it all loosely, to give generously, and to trust that You are more than enough for every need I have. Amen.