



SHELBY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WEALTH THAT WORKS: REDEFINING SUCCESS

LUKE 12:12-31, 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19, PROVERBS 11:24-25 * 1/11/2026

When you are afraid you might fail at something, how do you tend to respond? Do you tend to dig your heels in and try harder? Or do you bow out?

What is success? How would you define it?

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ LUKE 12:13-21

What request does someone make of Jesus in verse 13, and how does Jesus respond?

What warning does Jesus give in verse 15?

Why does Jesus emphasize that “life does not consist in an abundance of possessions”?

What is the contrast between the rich fool’s focus and God’s perspective on wealth?

How does this passage illustrate the dangers of greed and self-centered planning?

What does it mean that the rich man “was not rich toward God” (v. 21)?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ 1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

What does it mean to “put their hope in God” rather than in riches?

Why does Paul link generosity and good works to laying “a firm foundation for the future”?

How does Paul redefine success and security compared to worldly perspectives?

How are these actions connected to “true life” or lasting value?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ PROVERBS 11:24-25

What contrast does the passage make between those who give freely and those who hold back?

What does it mean that a generous person “will be enriched,” while the one who withholds will “come to poverty”?

Why do you think generosity is connected to both personal blessing and the blessing of others?

How does this proverb illustrate the principle of sowing and reaping in a spiritual or practical sense?

What might it mean to be “refreshed” by generosity? How does this go beyond material wealth?

How does this teaching relate to God’s character and His desire for His people?

How does verse 25 describe the impact of a generous heart on others?

APPLICATION

In what ways can people today be “rich toward themselves” rather than “rich toward God”?

How can we cultivate generosity, contentment, and dependence on God in our daily lives?

Have you ever been tempted to find security in material wealth? How do you personally struggle with putting hope in God rather than material possessions?

How can you apply the principle of being “rich toward God” in your family, church, or community?

How can your use of resources reflect eternal priorities rather than temporary gain?

How can your family, small group, or church embody the principle of generosity Paul describes?

PRAYER