LIVING AN AUTHENTIC LIFE

Open Handed Steward
Luke 12.13-21

BIG IDEA - An authentic disciple invests what God has entrusted to them in what matters most to Him.

1. When is the last time you cleaned out your attic, basement, or garage? Did you get rid of anything or just rearrange it?

2. What prompted Jesus to tell this parable? What warning does He give in v15? Why do you think Jesus connects greed with the idea that life doesn't consist of possessions?

3. The rich man's land produced plentifully. What do the following passages teach us about where our possessions and abilities ultimately come from? Ps 24:1; James 1:17; Deut 8:17–18.

4. An open-handed steward understands that everything belongs to God. How might viewing yourself as a steward rather than an owner change the way you think about the things you have?

5. What assumptions was the rich man making in v18-19 about his possessions and his future? Where do you see similar thinking in our culture today? How easily can we fall into it ourselves?

6. An open-handed steward does not cling to what they have. Why do you think it's so easy to believe that having more will make life better? Are there possessions, comforts, or financial goals that sometimes compete for more of your attention than they deserve?

7. What does it mean to be rich toward God (v21)? How does the rich man's understanding of what makes life worthwhile differ from God's perspective?

8. Read v34. How does the way we spend our money reveal what we value? Can the way we use our money also help shape what we value?

9. An open-handed steward uses everything for God's purposes. Besides money, what are some other things God has entrusted to us that we can use to bless others and participate in His work?

10. Think about our church's mission: Love God. Love People. Live Authentic Lives. What are some practical ways we can use what God has entrusted to us to live out that mission together?

11. What is one area of your life where you would like to become more open-handed? What might that look like in the days ahead?