

CASH AND CONTENTMENT

Luke 12:13-21

April 29, 2007 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION

- A. Read Text.
- B. A man living in Southern California was on his way to work one morning in his brand new BMW. Suddenly, the Big one hit: the earth began to tremble under his wheels and the car was swallowed by the earth. The man was seriously injured, but as he climbed out of the wreckage he didn't even notice that his left arm had been cut off at the elbow. He just stood by the side of the road, viewing the wreckage and crying out, "*Oh no, my Beemer, my Beemer!*" A man who had witnessed the disaster said to him, "*How can you be crying about your car? Don't you realize that your arm has been cut off?*" The man looked down in horror at his missing limb and said, "*Oh no! My Rolex! My Rolex!*"
- C. There is no question, we live in a materialistic society.
 1. How are we as Christians to relate to the issue of money.
 2. Questions...
 - a. How much money is enough?
 - b. What should we do with our money?
 - c. Does God want us to have money?
 - d. Can a Christian be comfortable financially and still be spiritual?
 3. Although the Bible has a lot to say about money, there are still many misconceptions about it. For example...

I. FOUR Misconceptions About Money.

- A. Misconception #1: "**Money is evil.**" It's the love of money, not money itself that is evil (I Timothy 6:10).
- B. Misconception #2: "**God needs our money**" (Psalm 50:10). The truth is we need to give to God not because He needs it but as a means of growing in our faith.
- C. Misconception #3: "***Having money will make me happy.***" Not according to a recent **Forbes Magazine** study (Attached).
- D. Misconception #4: "***God doesn't want me to have money.***"
 1. It's true Jesus told the rich young ruler to get rid of his money but that was because he was obsessed with money. Also, Jesus never told anyone else to do this.
 2. Several Old Testament characters were fabulously wealthy - David, Solomon, Job, Abraham.

II. What Is The Right Attitude To Have About Money? What Would Jesus Do About Money?

- A. Jesus issued a warning about money (12:15).
- B. Notice three things in this parable (12:16-21) that will help us guard against greed and to have a right attitude about money.
 1. **First, realize money isn't the most important thing in life.**
 - a. This year Peyton Manning was the winning quarterback in the Super Bowl for the Indianapolis Colts. A few years ago when Peyton Manning decided to play his senior year at the University of Tennessee and not enter the NFL draft, many people thought he was crazy to let the chance slip through his fingers. There are so many uncertainties in football C what if he was injured, or what if he had a bad season and lost his "*superstar*" status? What then? I saw an interview on ESPN in which an agent said this decision could cost Peyton millions of dollars and cause him to drop several positions in the draft. Manning's response was, "*These people don't get it. I wouldn't trade playing my senior year at Tennessee for anything in the world.*" (By the way, the agent was wrong: Peyton went first in the draft.)
 - b. People who make career choices based solely on the money often find these decisions come back to haunt them.

- c. Money is a miserable master.
- d. Jesus knew this and therefore warned “*A man’s life doesn’t consist in the abundance of his possessions*”(v. 15).

2. Second, learn to enjoy the financial blessings in your life.

- a. No matter where you are on the socioeconomic scale, there is always someone above you and some one below you.
- b. Focus on enjoying what you have rather than being miserable about what you don’t have.
- c. Orange County California is the most affluent county in the nation. According to Money Magazine, the median income in Orange County is 80% above the rest of the country. Yet when OC residents were surveyed, the overwhelming response from the majority of residents was “*I need a little bit more.*” Here are hundreds of thousands of the richest people in the world, and yet instead of enjoying their wealth, instead of being grateful for all they do have, they are convinced they need more.
- d. The man in Jesus’ parable was extremely wealthy, but all he could focus on was what he didn’t have (12:16).

3. Third, practice giving to others.

- a. The sin of the man in this parable wasn’t that he was successful, it was that he was selfish.
- b. The word “*miser*” and “miserable” come from the same root word.
- c. God doesn’t bless people financially just so they can keep it to themselves.
- d. The only way to release the grip of greed is to learn to give (Matthew 6:19).
- e. The best place to begin is with your church-v.21.

CONCLUSION

- A. What’s your attitude toward money?
- B. Remember what Jesus says with this parable.
 - 1. First, money isn’t the most important thing in life.
 - 2. Second, we should enjoy what we have.
 - 3. Third, practice giving to others.