

Foolish People | Luke 11:37-42 Sermon Discussion Participant Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To examine the ways we are prone to greed and living outwardly, and to allow the abundance of God and his coming kingdom to shape our motivation to live generosity.

Icebreaker: How did your childhood or upbringing shape the way you view money today?

Discussion

1. How would you define “greed”? What makes a person greedy?
 - a. How would you know if you’re a greedy person?

Read:

[Luke 10:37-42](#)

³⁷ When Jesus had finished speaking, a Pharisee invited him to eat with him; so he went in and reclined at the table. ³⁸ But the Pharisee was surprised when he noticed that Jesus did not first wash before the meal.

³⁹ Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. ⁴⁰ You foolish people! Did not the one who made the outside make the inside also? ⁴¹ But now as for what is inside you—be generous to the poor, and everything will be clean for you.

⁴² “Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.

Transition: The Pharisees viewed themselves as morally superior because of what was shown on the outside – in this case, his visible tithes. While it may look different, Christians today can fall into the same temptation, viewing ourselves as morally superior because of what’s on the outside, while neglecting what’s on the inside.

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2. What kinds of “outside” things do you see Christians use to seem morally superior than they are?
 - a. What kinds of “outside” things do you use sometimes to seem morally superior than you are?

Transition: Jesus exposed the Pharisees’ motivation here. Their generosity was all for show, while on the inside, they were full of “greed and wickedness” (v. 39).

3. When it comes to how you spend your money, what is shown on the outside? What motivates the way you spend your money?

Transition: The way the Pharisees spent their money also revealed what was on the inside: what they ultimately believed about God and others.

4. How does the way you spend your money reveal what you believe about God? Others?

Read:

[Luke 12:15-21](#)

¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

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²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

5. What does this rich man’s inner dialogue reveal about how he views his earnings? What does it reveal about how he views God’s role in his earnings?

6. This rich man seems to view the point of his earnings as storing up things for himself to use up in this life (v. 21). Where do you see this attitude reflected in our culture?
 - a. How do you see this attitude reflected in yourself?

Transition: Outside of a Christian worldview, this attitude makes sense! But because we live in light of eternity, we know this life is not all there is. This frees us up to be generous with what we have, because what we have, we were given by God.

7. Dave said in his sermon, “We’re more excited about the abundance of our possessions when we’re least excited about the unseen abundance of God and his coming kingdom.” How do you see this play out in your own life?

Prayer and Reflection:

Begin by asking the following question, followed by a few moments of silent reflection:

- Is your *standard of giving* increasing in proportion to your *standard of living*?

After a few moments of silent prayer, close by praying for your view of greed, money, and generosity; and that God’s coming kingdom would be your primary motivation to live generously.