

“Greed”

Preached by Bro. Mahlon T. LeCroix on 11/17/2024.

Sermon Series: A Stolen Life Main Passage: Luke 12:13-21

Opened with a discussion about a movie titled, “**Wall Street**”. My main focus was on a speech given in the movie that states, “**greed** is good”.

- What is some of the most shocking stats to you? _____

1) The **Deception**

- Greed is a **heart** condition and not a bank account condition, meaning a poor person can be as much, if not more, greedy than a rich person.
- **Greed** is addressed more than most sins in Scripture and even made it on the 10 Commandments. (ref: Ex.20:17)
- “*godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by **contentment**...*” (ref: 1Tim.6:6-10)
- Wealth is loved and sought after for 4 primary reasons...
 - 1) **Power**
 - 2) **Security**
 - 3) **Fame**
 - 4) **Pleasure**
- The man in Jesus’ parable was already wealthy and thought only of **himself** and never stopped to consider God’s role in his wealth, nor those around him.
- Everything we are and ever will be, will be because of **God’s** provision.
- Greed is ultimately **idolatry**, where we worship self. (ref: Col.3:5; Mat.6:24)
- Greed always plays off the sin we addressed earlier in this series, the sin of **anxiety**.
- Bible is filled with warnings about greed, but it is the one **sin** we rarely consider when wondering why we are not experiencing an abundant life. (ref: Mat.19:24; Ecc.5:10; Jam.5:1-6)

2) The **Deliverance**

- The primary way of overcoming greed is to learn to be **content**. (ref:1Tim.6:6-8)
- Happiness doesn’t come from money and possessions, but **contentment**.
- How many times have you gave up something for something newer, only to realize later what you had was better? _____
- Contentment is not **natural** but must be **learned**. (ref:Phi.4:10-13; Heb.13:5)
- Contentment is learned by being thankful for what you already have, we call this being **grateful**.
- Besides contentment and gratitude, believers need to learn to truly **savor** what they have.
- Contentment, gratitude, savoring, and lastly **giving** is all required to overcome greed. (ref: Mat.25:23; 2Cor.9:7)

In closing,

- Stop spending your life chasing the things of this **world**, but instead seek Christ and that which will last. (ref:1John 2:15-17)
- God intended for us to **enjoy** His blessings, but to also be rich towards Him and those whom He loves. (ref:1Tim.6:17-19)

Disclaimer: I make no claims to absolute originality for any of my messages. As the common saying goes, “I milk a lot of cows, but I churn my own butter.” I have listened to countless sermons, lectures, jokes, illustrations/stories over my lifetime. I have read countless books, articles, manuscripts, and watched countless documentaries, shows, movies, etc. I’m not sure any thought I have today is truly my own originality and not directly influenced from something I have read, seen, or heard. I’ll strive to make specific reference when I know and/or realize I’m quoting verbatim someone/thing directly.