

Passage: Luke 12:13-21

America is Full of Abundance

What does the word abundance mean? An extremely plentiful or over sufficient quantity or supply; overflowing fullness; affluence and wealth.

- This is what America is all about. Having the best stuff or the most stuff is what a lot of people strive for. Even the people that do not strive for an abundance of things end up having way more than the majority of the world. The goal for many people is to accumulate the biggest and best stuff.
- I saw an article in the newspaper a few days ago about home theater systems and other gadgets in these people's houses. One person had spent 750,000 dollars on an electronic system in his house that controlled literally everything.

Jesus Warns Against an Overabundance of Things

Read Luke 12:13-21. Jesus gives this parable as a warning against worldliness. Worldliness is the love and devotion to the world over God the creator.

Jesus' main points lie in verses 15 and 21.

- There is something more to life than having all kinds of things. Especially in our area the temptation to have a vast majority of possessions is very strong. Look at how many malls and stores we have the option of going to, look at how many catalogs there are available.
- Jesus warns of covetousness, covetousness is the root of many sins. People are murdered because of covetousness.
- Verse 21, it is very hard to really focus on God when your attention is pulled in so many directions. God becomes especially worthless if you are tied up in the pursuit of happiness through obtaining things.

Look at this parable, the rich man is relaxing, trusting, in his great wealth. But God comes and takes his life, now everything that this man has worked for and trusted in is no longer his.

- The problem here is not that he is wealthy, it is what he is doing with his wealth.
- Everyone is accountable for what they spent their time building up while on this earth. The one that spends all their resources amassing things for himself will be liable to God for what he has entrusted him with. He has spent all his life building his own kingdom, now it is agonizing for him to part with it.
- Honestly how many of you would be a little disappointed if Jesus came back right now. Many people would be, that is one example of our worldliness coming through.

How does this apply to you as a middle school student? None of you are really considered wealthy so how does this apply now.

- It is a lot easier to get your possessions under control before you actually have them. Getting in this mind set before you have a multimillion dollar house with 5 cars will make it easier to follow when you do start making money.
- Ask yourself what is abundant in your life. Is it clothes, dvd's, shoes?
- Chances are what is abundant in your life, that you are least willing to part with, is your time. This is probably what you have the most of that you are spending on yourself.
- Proportionately you spend the same amount of money on yourself as a rich person would.

Why not live abundantly? As verse 21 says, our hearts will be in the wrong place. We will be separated from God. We must look to Jesus Christ to be our savior. Possessions get in the way because we tend to look to them to fill us.

Next week we will look at how we are supposed to spend our money and time biblically.