

Message Title: A Stealth Sin and a Gospel Solution

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

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Luke 12:13-21

¹³ *Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."*

¹⁴ *Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"* ¹⁵ *Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*

¹⁶ *And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop."* 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 all my grain and my goods.'* ¹⁹ *And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things 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?'*

²¹ *"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."*

THE STORY IN LUKE'S GOSPEL

Luke 12:22-23

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear.

²³ Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes."

Luke 12:31-32

³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1. **Creation:** We are drawn to "things" because we were created to appropriately care for, manage and enjoy things (the rest of creation).
2. **Fall:** Our brokenness twists this good desire, so that we serve the creation rather than the Creator. (We abuse things, trying to use them to serve "the deep idols" of our hearts.)
3. **Redemption:** Christ died to redeem us from this twisted and perverse abuse of good things.
4. **Consummation:** One day, I will "inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5) and the Kingdom will arrive in its fullness.

Luke 12:32

³² *"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."*

Matthew 25:34

³⁴ *"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."*

In Christ:

- I have forgiveness.

- I have a new ultimate affection.

Psalm 73:25

Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth.

- I have a new ultimate affection.

- I have a new heavenly Father.

- I have a new source of security, comfort, approval, achievement, identity, etc.

The Result? A new freedom to be "rich toward God"!

Kingdom generosity is produced by understanding and deeply believing that, in Christ, I possess the Kingdom. Having Christ Himself and His Kingdom as the riches of my heart makes me rich toward God.