

FAITH & MONEY: GREED

As preached on Sunday, January 19th

Read: Luke 12:13-21

1. What do you think of John D. Rockefeller's answer to the question: "How much is enough?" What is the danger of striving for "just a little bit more"?
2. In v.15 Jesus offers a strong warning regarding greed. What does he say? Are there some in this world who believe that life consists in an abundance of possessions? (Explain)
3. Summarize Jesus' parable from vv.16-20 in your own words. At what point does the rich man's problem begin?
4. Do you think the rich man was living in a self-centered way? Why, or why not? In what ways can this same self-centeredness sneak up on us?
5. The rich man ends up building bigger barns to hold his "surplus". Define surplus.
6. It's clear from the parable that Jesus does not want us to build bigger barns and keep all of our surplus to ourselves. Why? (See Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 for one explanation)
7. What should we do with our surplus? And how does this relate to our being "rich toward God"?
8. How can you begin to apply this teaching to your own life? As you take inventory of what you have (money & possessions), what might qualify as surplus in Jesus' eyes? What specific actions can you take to protect yourself from the powerful pull of greed?