

**INTRO**

- When you think about greed, what examples come to mind?

The *Money Matters* series explores the importance of our relationship with money in regard to our spiritual health, and how God calls us to manage the wealth, and possessions He has entrusted to us for His glory, our joy, and the good of others.

**READ**

Luke 12:13-21

As you read and hear the words of Jesus, what jumps out to you?

**REFLECT & RESPOND**

In response to a man's request to settle a family dispute, Jesus warns about greed's dangers. This sets the tone for understanding how greed distorts our lives.

Greed is an excessive desire for money or possessions. To be clear, Jesus is not condemning the man's wealth, but rather, his over-attachment to it. Scripture and Jesus repeatedly warn us about the danger of money and possessions, yet our culture normalizes and glamorizes pursuing it.

*Qu: in what ways does our culture normalize and even glamorize greed?*

**Five Blindspots of Greed**

The parable highlights five ways greed blinds us:

- **Justification:** We rationalize our desires and actions, comparing our lives to others.
- **Expansion:** We believe more or bigger is always better.
- **Accumulation:** We hoard and save excessively at the expense of generosity and thinking of others' needs.
- **Assurance:** We place our security in possessions instead of God.

- **Hedonism:** We believe money can provide happiness and the "good life."

*Qu: which of these blindspots do you see in your own life? How does it mislead you about what will bring true happiness, security or fulfillment?*

Scripture views greed as idolatry (Col 3:5) because it curves our desire and trust inward, instead of toward God and others.

*Qu: in what ways can money or possessions act as a convenient replacement for God in our lives?*

**Breaking Free from Greed's Grip**

Jesus offers a Kingdom perspective as an alternative to greed, urging us to seek richness in God. Radical generosity, contentment and trust in God's provision break the grip of greed and align us with Kingdom values.

*Qu: what does being "rich toward God" look like?*

**Application:**

- Reflect on where your trust lies. If you find yourself relying on financial or material security more than God, consider one small way to shift that trust back to Him, such as prioritizing prayer over financial planning or taking a step of faith in generosity.
- What one step can you take this week to loosen the grip of greed in your life?

**RESPOND & PRAY**

- Ask God for the strength to reorder desires, grow in contentment, and cultivate generosity