



**WEST
SIDE
CHURCH**

Week 16

Series: Equipped

Sermon Title: Being Rich Toward God

Sermon Text: Luke 12:13-21

Group Week of: August 11, 2024

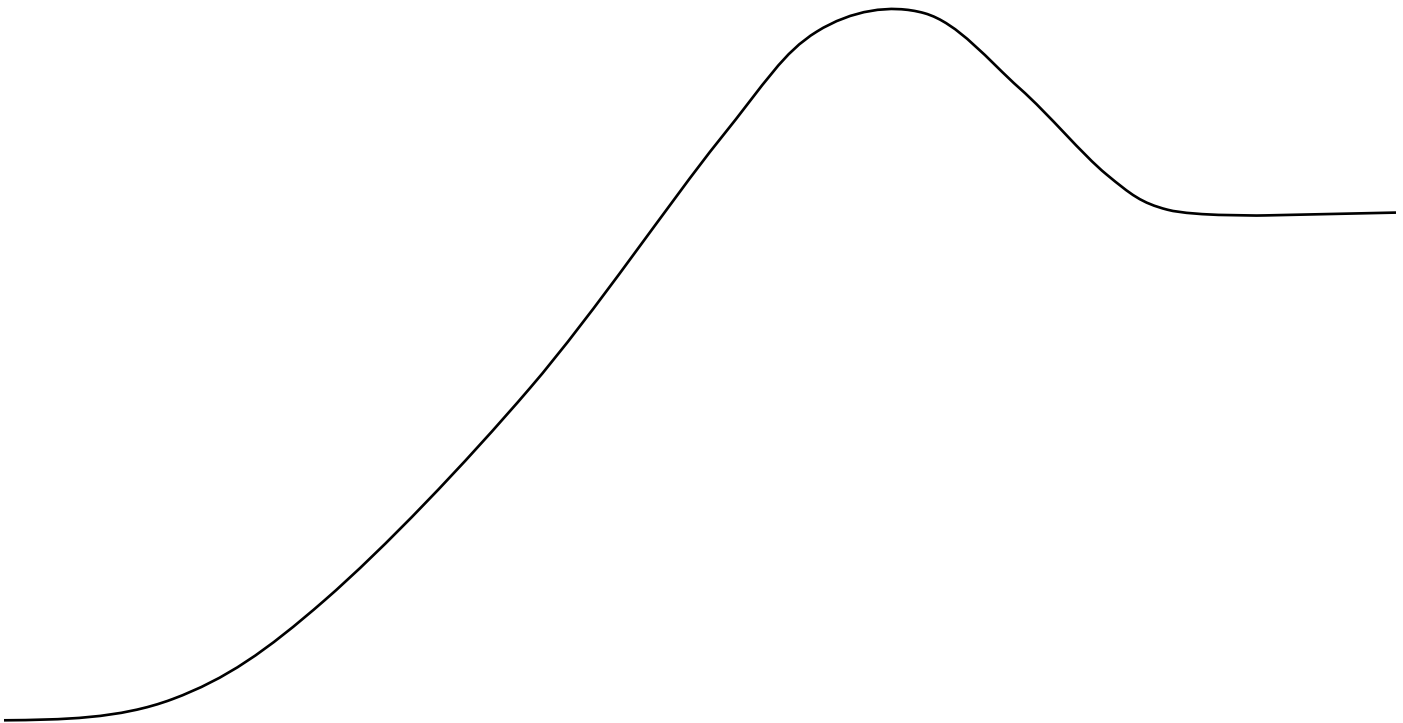
Sermon Date: August 18, 2024

Scriptures for Additional Daily Studies

Day 1	Vanity of Riches – Ecclesiastes 4:8-19
Day 2	Contentment – 1 Timothy 6:2b-10
Day 3	Riches vs Greed – Proverbs 28:20
Day 4	The Wealthy Condemned – James 5:1-6
Day 5	Treasure in Heaven – Matt 6:19-24

The Text: Luke 12:13-21

- 1) **Read** the text slowly and carefully.
- 2) **Pray** for understanding, insight, and transformation.
- 3) **Fill in the plot arch** by writing down verses in the story as points on the plot line to help show you where the main lessons in the story are.
- 4) **Answer** the interpretive questions at the bottom.



Textual Questions

- 1) What is (are) the main lesson(s) you see Jesus giving to His disciples (and us) through this text?
- 2) What does it mean to be “greedy” according to this passage?
- 3) How does the man prove to be a fool in this parable?

Discussion Guide Questions

- 1) Initially, the man's request to have his brother divide the inheritance with him doesn't seem greedy, but Jesus' response tells us that there was greed buried there. Can you think of a time when greed may have motivated your prayers and requests to God? If so, share that with your group and talk about how greed can be in our motivations even if we don't realize it at the time.

- 2) For this reason, Jesus tells His disciples to "be on...guard against *all kinds* of greed." Write out a list of different kinds of greed below. Think through the obvious examples and the less obvious examples. Then, talk through why some greed is more obvious or less obvious than others with your group.

- 3) The parable tells us that the man was rich before the harvest came. This means that he already had more than he needed, and this abundant harvest was something above and beyond his needs. How do you define "rich"? Discuss a definition of rich with your group.

- 4) The man's needs were already met, and when he received more than that, his only thought was "I need bigger barns to store more grain so that I can stop working and enjoy the rest of my days eating, drinking, and being merry." How similar is this to the American dream? If it is very similar, does this mean that Jesus is actually condemning our cultural dreams?

- 5) The man in the parable says, "my crops" (v. 16), "my surplus grain" (v. 18), and says to himself, "you have plenty of grain laid up for many years" (v. 19). He does not see the gift of abundance as coming from or belonging to God; he sees it as something that is his to do with as He pleases. What is wrong with his understanding of wealth? What does God want the wealthy to do with their wealth?

- 6) In the end, the man in the parable is called a "fool" for building storehouses for himself because he is going to die and someone else will spend and eat his riches. Read James 5:1-6 and pay special attention to verse 5. Why is it so foolish to store up riches for ourselves?

- 7) Instead of storing up riches for ourselves, we need to be rich towards God. How can do we this from the heart?

- 8) Where is God telling you to adjust your understanding and practices around money this week?