

MAKE ROOM

An Advent Reflection

Buried Alive
Luke 12:13-21
December 17, 2023

“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”
-Luke 12:15

I. TRIVIAL MATTERS

- A (likely) younger brother wants Jesus to step into a legal matter on his behalf. Jesus refused to be distracted with trivialities (Luke 20:19-26; John 12:20-21).
- We are all susceptible to getting sidetracked in life with trivial matters (Rom. 12:18, 14:1-6; 2 Tim. 2:14).

II. A PARABLE CONCERNING COVETOUSNESS

- A rich man’s land produced plentifully. It was a blessing, not a result of his own ingenuity (1 Cor. 4:7).
- The rich man is not faulted for forward thinking, he is faulted for:
 1. Assuming upon God. “I will X 3 (vss. 18-19).
 2. Spending his wealth solely on himself (vs. 19).
 3. Finding future joy in possessions over God (vs. 19).

III. LETTING GO OF TRANSIENT THINGS

- When our lives are cluttered with our stuff (material and immaterial) it is virtually impossible to make room for Jesus (vs. 15; Hosea 13:4-6).
- We cannot have the “world” and Jesus. The two are incompatible (1 John 2:15-17).
- We must ask God to help us loosen our grip on that which is transient, so that we may focus on that which is eternal (2 Cor. 4:16-18; Heb. 11:8-10).

KNOW: We are buried under our stuff. Many have over committed their lives to such a point where there remains no room for Jesus. Will we let go of temporal things for eternal things?

DO: Ask God to help you declutter your life. Make room for Jesus.

Suggested Reading:

Is Christmas Unbelievable? Four Questions Everyone Should Ask About the World’s Most Famous Story by Rebecca McLaughlin (Available in the LifePoint Library)

For Children:

The Adventure of Christmas: A Journey Through Advent for the Whole Family by Ed Drew (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Prepare Him Room: Celebrating the Birth of Jesus Family Devotional by Marty Machowski (Available in the LifePoint Library)

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Luke 12:13-21

1. Why is Jesus vexed with this man who interrupts his teaching?
2. What is covetousness? Why must we be on guard against it?
3. How do we stand against our culture’s concept of success?
4. What point does Jesus’ parable teach?
5. Why does God consider the man in this parable a “fool”?
6. Is it wrong to prepare for our future? Our retirement?
7. What does it mean, do you think, to be “rich toward God”? Does God need something from us?
8. What is a point of application for you from this text?