

# Lifestyles of the Rich and Foolish

Luke: All Things New



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 12:13-21



## Big Idea

Money is not a savior. Nor is it an enemy. What we come to see from the Scriptures is that it represents an Opportunity—a kingdom opportunity, whereby we can bring glory to God in the way that we are both grateful to Him for it and generous to others with it.

### (1) Savior

**Security**—We give ourselves to the pursuit of money because we think, in some ways, it can save, or cushion, us from the unknown and the frightening prospects of life. Put positively, it promises us security, stability, a sense of control.

**Pleasure**—We give ourselves to the pursuit of money because we think it can save us from discomfort and pain. Put positively, it promises us ease, indulgence, pleasure.

**Identity**—Often we give ourselves to the pursuit of money because we think it can save us from obscurity and mediocrity. Put positively, it promises us a sense of identity, status, prominence, respect. Money cannot save you from death. Money cannot buy you eternal life. Money cannot pay the penalty due your sin. Money cannot bribe you into God's favor. Money cannot redeem your soul from hell. And, therefore, whatever security, pleasure, identity it can get you on this side of death, it will ultimately fail you in the end. You will go to write the check and the check will bounce!

### (2) Enemy

If the prosperity gospel measures your spiritual maturity by your material prosperity, well the poverty gospel measures it by precisely the opposite. The more poor, the more destitute, you are, the holier you must be. You've forsaken all for Christ. The one sets up prosperity as the means of justification before God, the other poverty, but both, in their extremes are missing Christ. Underneath the poverty gospel, then, is a sense that money and stuff somehow is an enemy to the spiritual life. It's inherently evil in some way. But Jesus teaches us here that the real issue is *desire* for money: "covetousness" (v. 15). The problem is not with something outside of us, but something within us.

### (3) Opportunity

The surprise of the gospel is that when we rejected God's gift of creation, demanding something better, God, in love and grace, in an overflow of generosity, gave us something better. He gave us His Son, His one and only beloved Son. The best He had. He didn't store His Son up in a barn for Himself, He sent His Son down to a rebel humanity to be born in a barn for the sake of the world—to live the life we should've lived and die the death we should've died, so that if we would repent and receive Him we can be forgiven of our sins, counted righteous in Him, and become heirs of the world to come!

## Reflection Questions



- Within the church, why are both the prosperity gospel and the poverty gospel only half truths? How does the true gospel bring both sides together and show the way forward for us? If you're able, use Scripture in your response.
- Describe your approach to money. Which of the extremes (Savior or Enemy) are you more prone to? Explain. How has the gospel changed the way you handle money and stuff?
- "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose" (Jim Elliot). Have you heard these words before? What do they mean to you? How does this relate to the parable Jesus tells? How are you living your life in light of these things?