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| Luke 12:13-21  Luke 12:22-31 or 34 | The Parables Jesus Told:  Measuring Up | MGV – 9:30am – 17/08/2025  Pinelands – 9am – 24/08/2025 |

We are obsessed with MEASURING…

We MEASURE… Ourselves - Growing up *(doorpost)*

Things - To fit room / Project

Distances - We need to travel

Years - Birthdays + Anniversaries

We are ALWAYS measure things…

Helps us understand… puts things into a frame of reference

Holiday destination…

Which route is shortest or quickest

Expected time of arrival

Explain to others… So they understand the way we do

Compare, Evaluate and make Conclusions

Activities.. Number of people at a concert / Sports Game

Control… City Planning, Contingency plans

Parkrun is 5km, Speed limit is 60km,

Manage… Staff and employees

hours worked equal payment,

how much sick leave is due

Sport… The fastest and the slowest, best and the worst… World ranking of sports teams

Lap times in Grand Prix

Speed and Distance in Athletics

Compare… Productivity

Was this better than last time,

have we improved or not

Compete… Is mine better than yours…

House, Car, Project,

Bank Account, Pension fund

The problem with our **MEASURING** is…

It mostly comes down to ***SUCCESS and WEALTH.***

**JESUS** is asked by a person in the crowd… about…

Inheritance, **MONEY…** ***“I want more”***

**SO…** Jesus Told this Parable…

**READ – Luke 12:13-21**

**Remember:** ***Parable is an Earthly Story with a Heavenly meaning***

Jesus is using an earthly story to contrast or show Kingdom Values.

**Jesus begins** with a warning in **verse 15…**

***“Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed***

***Because a person’s true life is not made up of the things we***

***own no matter how rich we might be.”***

Eugene Petersen puts it this way…

***“Life is not defined by what you have,***

***even when you have a lot.”***

***SO…*** Jesus goes on to highlight **2 ILLUSIONS.**

**FIRSTLY:** Illusion of the ***Measure of SUCCESS***

Culturally (then) and even in our modern day world…

Success is most often Indicated or Measured by

***Status and Money and Image***

That is what most often drives us…

In Choosing a Career… *money, status and image*

In What car to buy… *money, status and image*

Where to live

What clothes we buy and wear.

IS THAT REALLY WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT?

The world is all about Money, Status and Image…

OFTEN… It is how we measure our Success.

It is how we measure ourselves…

Generally and In comparison to others.

NOT only that… It is often how we measure others

If they are RICH… They have made it

If they have STATUS… They have Achieved

If they LOOK GOOD… The are acceptable

IS THAT REALLY WHAT LIFE IS ALL ABOUT?

By those Cultural Standards…

JESUS was a complete and miserable failure.

Philosopher Henry Thoreau (1817-1862) said…

***If a man spends all his time and efforts making money***

***and gaining possessions, his life has been a failure.***

**SECONDLY:** Illusion of the ***Measure of WEALTH***

Our World thinks… Wealth, Possessions and Money…

Will bring Happiness and Contentment.

That is a complete ***ILLUSION.***

There are soo many real-life examples and quotes to support this.

**Benjamin Franklin** *(one of the founding fathers of the USA)* said…

***“Money never made a man happy yet, nor will it. There is***

***nothing in its nature to produce happiness. The more a man***

***has, the more he wants. Instead of its filling a vacuum, it***

***makes one. If it satisfies one want, it doubles and triples***

***that want another way.”***

When **John Rockefeller** was the richest man in the world,

someone asked him how much money was enough.

He replied, ***"Just a little bit more."***

**Rockefeller** also said…

***“I have many millions, but they brought me no happiness.”***

**Andrew Carnagie** *(a Scottish-American industrialist and philanthropist)*

***“Millionaires seldom smile.”***

There are soo many stories of people who have…

won millions in a lotto draw…

Only to end up Miserable and Destitute.

Guess who said this…

***“If you love money, you will never be satisfied;***

***if you long to be rich, you will never get all you***

***want. It is useless. The richer you are, the more***

***mouths you have to feed. All you gain is the***

***knowledge that you are rich.”*** (Ecclesiastes 5:10-11)

**Any guesses?? ?? Elon Musk ?? – NO Ecclesiastes**

How absurd to think that wealth and possessions brings happiness.

The more you have the more people come to help you spend it.

**Fortune Magazine** quotes a comment made by billionaire

**Henry Ross Perot** who said,

***“Guys, just remember, if you get real lucky, if you make a lot of***

***money, if you go out and buy a lot of stuff - it’s gonna break.***

***You got your biggest, fanciest mansion in the world. It has air***

***conditioning. It got a pool. Just think of all the pumps that are***

***going to go out. Or go to a yacht basin any place in the world.***

***Nobody is smiling, and I’ll tell you why. Something broke that***

***morning. The generator’s out; the microwave oven doesn’t***

***work… Things just don’t mean happiness."***

**Proverbs 23:4-5**

***“Be wise enough not to wear yourself out trying to get rich.***

***Your money can be gone in a flash, as if it had grown***

***wings and flown away like an eagle.”***

So… if that is the **ILLUSION**… ***what is the REALITY?***

**Jesus concludes the Parable** with these words in **verse 21…**

***“This is how it is with those who pile up riches for***

***themselves but are not rich in God's sight.”***

So what does it mean to be ***“Rich in God’s sight.”***

*(Derived from the parable)*

**Firstly:**  To be rich in God’s Sight we must…

**OVERCOME SELFISHNESS**

In the parable the words **“I”** and **“MY”** are mentioned between

9 and 11 times… That says something about him

The **Kingdom of God** is almost never about… ***Me Myself and I***

Yes there is… Personal Salvation

A personal relationship with Jesus

Personal Gifts given by the Holy Spirit

**BUT…** The **GOAL** of all that is **for the benefit of GOD’s KINGDOM**

Eugene Petersen concludes this parable in verses 21 like this…

***“That’s what happens when you fill your barn***

***with Self and not with God.”***

To be rich in God’s sight is to **“OVERCOME OUR SELFISHNESS.”**

**Secondly:** To be rich in God’s Sight we must…

**USE GOD’s STANDARDS FOR GREATNESS**

God’s Standards of Greatness are different to ours and the Worlds

Remember when the disciples came to Jesus and asked…

***“Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”*** (Matt 18:1)

What did Jesus say…

***“The greatest in the Kingdom of heaven is the one who***

***humbles themself and becomes like a child.”*** (Matt 18:4)

God’s Standards of Greatness begin with… ***HUMILITY***

To Serve and be a servant

To love with all your heart

To forgive and forgive and forgive

To share and be generous

To Cerb our desire to be first

God’s **Standard of Greatness** is to use ***JESUS*** as your **measuring stick**

*(Point of Reference)*

To be rich in God’s Sight we must…

**WE MUST** **USE GOD’s STANDARDS**

**As our MEASURING STICK.**

**Thirdly:** To be rich in God’s Sight we must…

**FOLLOW THE RIGHT EXAMPLES**

The **Example of a Child** *(Matthew 18)*

- A child… Depends on it’s Parents… We on God

Trusts in it’s Parents… We in God

Loves it’s Parents… We love God

The **Example of Jesus** Himself…

Paul’s Letter to the Philippians (2:5-11) reminds us of the example of Jesus

We should have the same…

Attitude and Nature of Jesus

Nature of Servanthood and Service of Jesus

Humility and Grace as Jesus had

We need to Proclaim JESUS CHRIST is LORD

To be rich in God’s sight we must…

**Follow the Prime and Perfect Example of JESUS.**

**TWO ILLUSIONS…**

***and* THREE MEASURES OF REALITY**

If we are so obsessed with MEASURING…

Then here are the MEASURMENTS of GOD’s KINGDOM

God measures your **Heart…** ***NOT*** your Bank Account

God measures your **Character…** ***NOT*** your Achievements

God measures your **Soul…** ***NOT*** your Possessions

God measures your **Worship…** ***NOT*** your Attendance

**DO YOU MEASURE UP?**

**Luke 12:13-21**

**The Parable of the Rich Fool**

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide with me the property our father left us.”

Jesus answered him, “Friend, who gave me the right to judge or to divide the property between you two?” And he went on to say to them all, “Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your true life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: “There was once a rich man who had land which bore good crops. He began to think to himself, ‘I don't have a place to keep all my crops. What can I do? This is what I will do,’ he told himself; ‘I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store the grain and all my other goods. Then I will say to myself, Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?’”

And Jesus concluded, “This is how it is with those who pile up riches for themselves but are not rich in God's sight.”