

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Luke 12:13-21
Lesson #31
True and False Wealth
04/26/2020



The possibility of an
economic pandemic

Covid-19

Deep state Social injustice

Secularism

Climate change

- Global panic.
- Hyperinflation.
- Banks might close.
- Credit might disappear.
- Utilities might shut down.
- Interest rates would skyrocket.
- Savings accounts would evaporate.

The stock market crash of 1929 did not recover its losses until 1954.

1



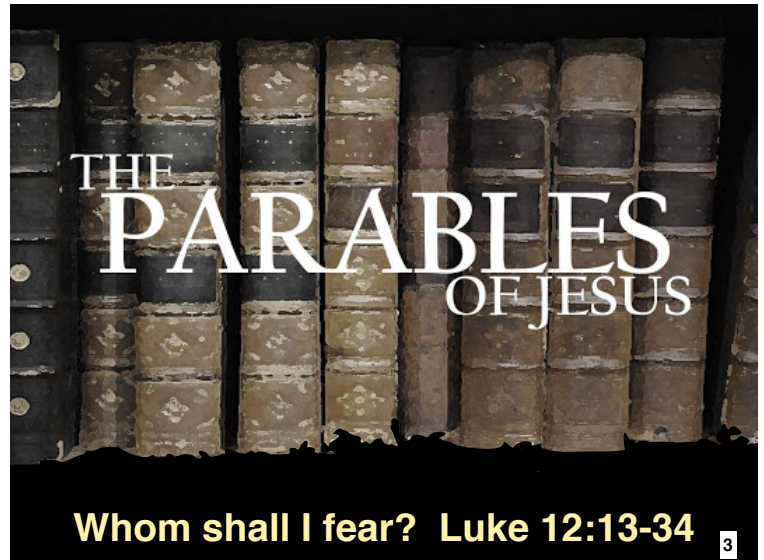
FEAR
is a “spiritual”
PANDEMIC.

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Fear is the first fruit of the FALL.
Fear is a driving force of BEHAVIOR.

2



3

Luke 12

“4 And I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will warn you whom to fear: **fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!**”

- Fear is not optional. **The question is who or what do we fear.**
- The point is not that this life is insignificant but rather that **it is not the whole picture.**
- When we see who we are and who God is we **gain insight, wisdom, and true security.**

4

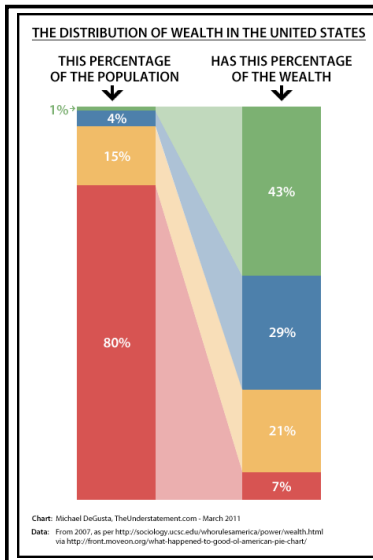
Luke 12

“13 And someone in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” 14 But He said to him, “Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbiter over you?” 15 And He said to them, “**Beware, and be on your guard** against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”



- is the way we keep score in a capitalistic system. **It determines our social class!**
- is the key to the cultural **warehouse of goods and services!**
- is a touchy subject because it is so close to our core values. **It's MY stuff!!!!!!!**

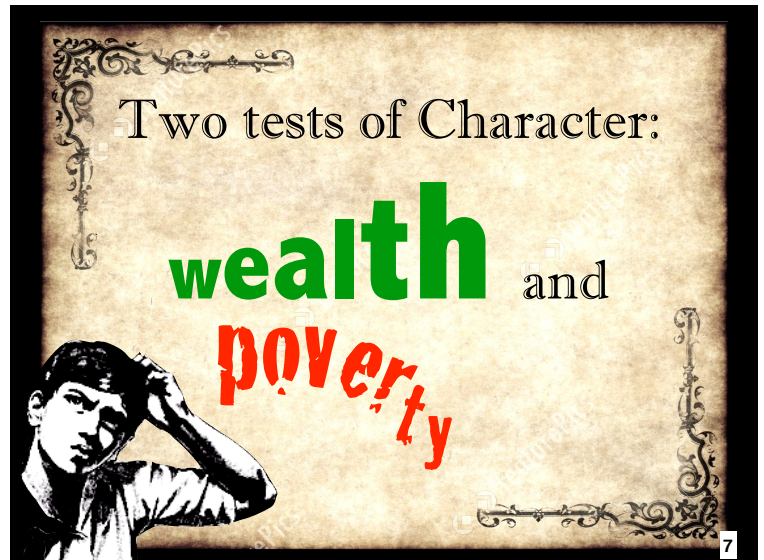
5



AMERICAN PIE CHART



6



7

¹⁶ And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a certain rich man was very productive. ¹⁷ And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry."

²⁰ But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?" ²¹ So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

- Jesus does not condemn this man for being rich or enjoying his wealth but **exposes his foolish assumption** that this makes him safe.

8

What does the Bible say about wealth?



9

Some shocking facts

- Jesus mentioned money **more often than heaven and hell combined**.
- The N.T. teaching is more focused on what material wealth does **to those who have it** than what it can do for the poor who need it.
 - Materialism has little to do with **how much money we have**.
 - The N.T. teaches that giving is not a spiritual gift, **it is a sign**.

10

As a blessing from God be thankful.

As an opportunity for ministry be responsible.



As a dangerous deception don't let it define you.

As a desensitizer to God, people, & your spiritual need don't let it blind you.

11

Building a fear killing faith.

WHAT NOT TO DO.



12

Mistake #1
Starting with social
systems
rather than
personal peace.



Luke 12

“³⁰ For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹ But **seek for His kingdom**, and these things shall be added to you.”

13

Why is Social Ethics in the N.T. not more environmentally focused?

“**MAJOR ON MAJORS** and minor on minors.”

*Being a Christian
doesn't change what
we deal with,*

*so much as
how we deal
with it.*



14

The pattern of Paul's letters

Personal Peace

Social Ethics

What God does
FOR & IN us

What God does
THROUGH us

First section

Second section

**The order is consistent
and significant**

15

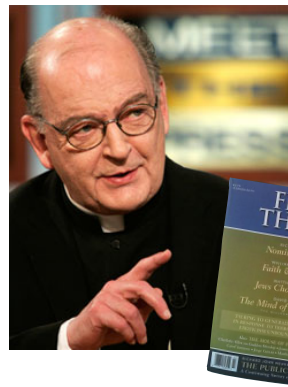
The human dilemma

- **starts from within not from without.**
- **is not material but spiritual.**

**Managing life as broken
people in a broken world**

- **starts from within not from without.**
- **is not environmental but personal.**

16



Richard John
Neuhaus

“Idolatry is trying to bring in God's Kingdom before its time and without its King.”

**It is popular with
both the political
right and left.**

17

The religious / political
right wants the kingdom
legislated before its time
and without its Spirit.

The religious / political
left wants the kingdom
legislated before its time
and without its King.

18

The evangelical center
wants the kingdom
with the Spirit
and the King
in its time

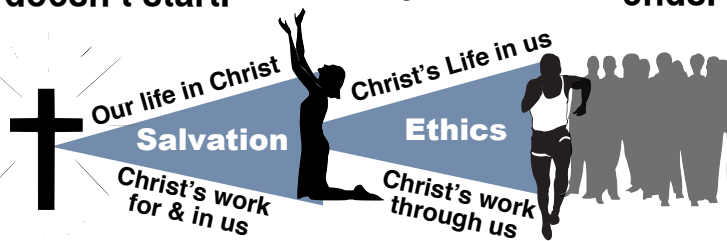
**but is often too
attached, anxious & angry
with the things of this age
while it waits.**

19

Christianity
that doesn't
start with the
individual
doesn't start.



Christianity
that ends
with the
individual
ends.



Personal
First Commandment

Environmental
Second Commandment

20

Mistake #2
Leading with
"gut feelings"
**rather than
reasoned choices.**



Matthew 6

"¹⁹ Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ **for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**" ²¹

21

If it can decay
or be taken away
it is a false treasure
that inevitably
invites



22

Worrying

does not take away
tomorrow's troubles;
it just takes away
today's peace.

23

Vision - seeing the big picture.

Commitment - making a choice to seek true wealth.

Investment - getting skin in the game.

Passion - watch your heart follow your treasure.



24

Mistake #3
Working hard and / or trusting God

but for the wrong thing.



Matthew 6

“²² The lamp of the body is the eye; **if therefore your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light.** ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!”

25

Mistake #3
Working hard and / or trusting God

but for the wrong thing.



James 4:3-4

“³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.** ⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God?”

26

Remember

- The treasure you seek will reflect the heart **you have or seek to cultivate.**
- If what you seek looks a lot like the “**American dream**” you might want to ask: Is this the heart seen in Jesus, Paul, and Peter?

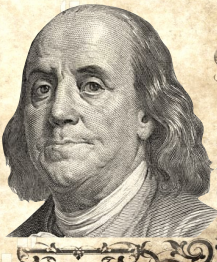


Next week

27

“Life’s tragedy is that we get old too soon and wise too late.”

Benjamin Franklin



28

Mistake #4
Believing that we can

have it both ways.



Matthew 6

“²⁴ **No one can serve two masters;** for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

29

Serving two masters will double your anxiety not your security.

Matthew 6

“²⁴ **No one can serve two masters**; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. ²⁵ For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing?”

30

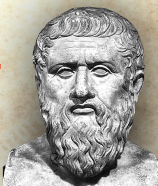
You might have Spiritual wealth when:

- You can **lose** your material health and wealth and still have peace and joy.
- You are no longer **preoccupied** with gaining and keeping material H&W.
- You define your **worth** in who you are rather than what you have or have done.
- You have learned to be **content** both with and without your H&W.
- You willingly **sacrifice** material H&W to gain spiritual H&W.

31

“We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark;
the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light.”

Plato



32

Some practical applications

- **Be a peace seeker** in building treasure that the world can't give or take away.
- **Be a peacemaker** in flying above the political food fights in our culture.
- **If we fail to manage our fears**, we are vulnerable to bad judgement / decisions.
- Be an **answer to someone's prayer** - look up, show up, lift up, and cheer up.
- **Meditate on:** 2 Tim. 1:7, 1 Pet. 3:13-14, 5:6-7, 1 Jn. 4:18, Heb. 13:5-6, **Matt. 6:19-34**, 10:28, Jn. 16:32-33, Josh. 1:9, Deut. 31:6, 1 Chron. 28:20, Isa. 41:13, 43:4, **Ps. 23**, 27:1, 34:4, 56:3-4, 94:19, 103:17, 115:11, 112:1, 118:6.

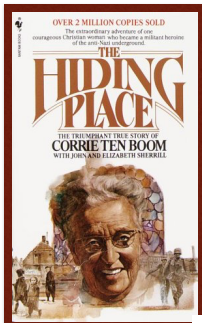
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Betsie Ten Boom

was imprisoned with her family for hiding Jewish refugees as a part of the Dutch resistance during WWII.

Before her death, she experienced three visions about what she and her sister, Corrie were to do after their release. Her first vision was of a **house for former prisoners**. The second was to **own a camp where they could teach Germans to learn to love again**. The third was that she and Corrie **would travel the world telling what they had learned of God while in the camps**.

Betsie died in prison at age 59. Corrie was released due to a clerical error and went on to tell the story of God's love conquering fear in **THE HIDING PLACE**.



34

The richest person in the cemetery

Born in a broken world of fear
Seeking ways to ease the pain
In every nook both far and near
Longings strong but all in vain.

Born anew at Friday's Cross
With Sunday's hope assured
Discarding faded worldly dross
With Kingdom wealth secured.

Died with peace the world knew not
Its goods exchanged for kingdom gold
Holding riches blood had bought
Her story lives of wealth untold.

Jim Abrahamson

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