



Flashback

Luke 12:13-21

Message from Pastor Martin Hawley

March 4, 2018

Bottom Line: If God has blessed you with more than you need, it is so you can share your abundance with those in need.

Review:

It is easy to get lost in the realm of personal finance.

- Am I saving enough?
- Am I spending too much?
- Am I getting into too much debt?
- What about the future?

We ask those questions ... but ...

Introduction:

Here's a question we need to ask ourselves from time to time: "Why do I have so much?"

I realize you don't have as much as you want. Few of us do. After all, our desire for stuff is like the rest of our appetites. It can never be fully or

finally satisfied. But just for a moment, shift your focus away from your *potential* possessions and income to your *actual* possessions and income.

Chances are it is more than your parents had at your age. It is probably considerably more than most people in the world can lay claim to. So why you? Why do you have so much? Why do you have more than you actually *need*?

The reason we need to slow down occasionally and force ourselves to wrestle with that question is that culture keeps us laser-focused on what we don't have. Focusing on what we don't have makes our hearts vulnerable to greed.

Jesus defines greed as: the assumption that life's extras are for our consumption.

This is how we tend to think about money, but we're not alone ...

*Someone in the crowd said to him,
"Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."
-Luke 12:13*

The Principle:

A man was accusing his brother of being greedy. Jesus warns him – the one not getting his fair share is guilty of being greedy/coveting what his brother had.

A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.

Jesus launches into a parable aimed at those with extra.

The more we have, the easier it is to get lost because of how we view money.

I NEED vs. I WANT –
When we get these two things confused, we are LOST.

The Parable: He was already rich ... had extra.

Read: Luke 16:13-21

money you have.

Conclusion:

Be generous toward God, the poor, and His kingdom. Besides, He's the one who made it rain on your crops in the first place.

Jesus started this story with this statement: "A person's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Maybe life consists in what you give away. That's what Jesus was known for. What He gave up – not what He acquired.

When you and I embrace that way of thinking, the financial fog begins to settle. We are well on our way to being *un-lost*.

Chances are you will run out of time before you run out of stuff, so while you still have time, give generously. You will see the rest of your personal finances differently.

Generous giving breaks the power of greed, which clears the fog.

I hope God trusts all of you with extra treasure. I hope all of us remember why when the time comes.

*If God has blessed you with more than you need, it is so
you can share your abundance with those in need.*

NEXT STEPS:

- ☐ **Memorize: Luke 12:33.**
- ☐ **Meditate on "A person's life does not consists in the abundance of his possessions." What does a person's life consist of?**
- ☐ **Adopt the Lifestyle: Give, Save. Live.**
- ☐ **Pastor, Sign Me Up for the Six-Month Tithe Challenge.**
- ☐ **Join us Next Sunday for LOST Part 4: Finding Shelter.**

NEXT WEEK— LOST: Finding Shelter (Contentment)

Discontentment is brindles when you turn your attention from what you want to what others need. Once brindles, the appetite diminishes.

Generosity vs consumption.

"The ground produced." What produced? Who controls that? (v. 16)
The rich man had a problem, "What shall I do with my extra?" (v. 17)
The rich man came up with a plan for storing his extra. (v. 18-19)
He assumes he has many years.

But God thought differently ... "You fool." (v. 20)

God called him a fool. Why?

- Not for being rich ... but for not knowing why he was rich.
- Not for having extra ... but for thinking the extra was for him.

The moral of the story (v. 21).

Storing up for himself vs. rich toward God.

Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.
- Luke 12:33

The big question: What is "this?" (v. 21)

This is total loss. The landowner suffered a total reversal at death. He lost everything in this life and had nothing to show for it in the next life. It was a total and complete loss. He didn't just lose his life, he lost everything he considered life.

In the words of Jesus, he was a fool! A fool that most of us would have envied had we known him.

He was lost and didn't even know it until it was too late to do anything about it.

*If God has blessed you with more than you need, it is so
you can share your abundance with those in need.*

Not out of guilt for what we have, but out of love/gratitude to the one who provided it. Proper priorities help sort all of this out and keep us from getting lost.

Getting ahead is a great and proper pursuit once you have given generously.

Give, save, and live on the rest.

If you get the order reversed, you get lost – no matter how much