

VIDEO

Her “pipedream” came true! He lump sum payout AFTER taxes is estimated about between 330 and 350 million dollars
She called in and said to her boss... “I won’t be coming back!”

You know of course that for many people, a very high percentage in fact, winning a huge sum of money ruins their life!
I know, if you are like me, you are thinking...hmmm...I think I could get it right...would love the opportunity to try!

Today we continue our series on Learning To Love Like Jesus by looking at “Loving People Captured By Things”

Luke 12:13-34

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The Story:

- *Private Family Issue is made public*
- *Seems to be contested enough for it to be brought up to Jesus! (2/3 and 1/3) Not giving right amt, or Want more?*
- *Jesus uses the opportunity to teach them...and you and I...About something more important than money*
- *Man asks for one thing...(Money) Gets something totally different (Life Lesson)*

How Do We Love People Captured By Thing? Because trust me...our culture...our society...our life is full of people like that!

1. Teach Them To Never Confuse True Kingdom Issues With Money:

Vs 13-14

- Who made me arbiter: Jesus is telling him, listen...My PRIMARY emphasis is Not money...and things!
~How you USE your money is very spiritual
~The PURSUIT and ACCUMULATION of it is NOT!
Illus: (TV & Radio) Money is a sign of God’s favor. NO Jesus NEVER said anything like that!
But, we find many people that confuse the two: You have money...that is a sign of God’s favor.
Maybe: or it might be a sign you are stealing from others, or selfish or Blind and Carless of others!
Illus: My first trip to China: “God wants you to be healthy, wealthy and have all you want!!!”

2. Warn Them To Protect Their Heart From Greed.

Vs 15

Jesus starts his conversation about “things” with a Warning!

And, keep in mind this is a MUCH larger discussion than money

- Be on your guard: @ all kinds of danger
~Beware: Lit = *Pay attention:*
Warning Sign on Street! Grand Canyon: No fences 2-3 people a year!!!
~Understand that this issue is a common part of our makeup (We are prone to WANT MORE)
The sin that got us all in trouble in the first place: “*Wanting Something we shouldn’t have!*” Gen 3:6
- Against Greed: Lit = *a greedy desire for more!* (to see it and to covet it strongly, to desire to crave)
A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions (Abounding, Overflowing)
App: Bumper Sticker: “The one who dies with the most toys wins!”

Remember I said it is more than Money?

Greed can be about all kinds of things!

Money: This is a key issue for us: Esp those of us who are older! My generation has a greater disposable income than ever
We have to decide WHAT we are going to do with it...and HOW we are going to use it!

Time: How are you going to use your time...when you retire...when you are in a place where you don’t have to work?

Talent: What are you going to invest your life in? How are you going to use all the gifts God has given you?

Illus: Play out this scenario: Retire at 67 Die at 80

Go stand before Jesus, He says to you...What did you do with the 13 years...Money you had and Talent I gave you
It was AWESOME! Here is my vacation pictures, my second home, pictures of all my toys...

I had such a great time...Did everything I wanted to do...Went everywhere...Did ONLY what I wanted...

3. Help Them Avoid Developing An “I” Disease!

Vs 16-21

I have a friend that used to say to me all the time, “*Don’t be surprised when an unbeliever acts like and unbeliever!*”

What SHOULD surprise us is when Christians... “Christ Followers” act like an unbeliever...That should surprise us

- Look at the story
~Between 10 and 14 “I” and “Me” and “My” and “Myself”
- Where is there ANY mention of God?
~Is never even on the radar screen
(I believe it is absolutely IMPOSSIBLE to truly know and love Jesus w/o giving back in some way)
Financial, Time, Energy, Talent: You CANNOT love...without Giving!
Jn 3:16: *For God so loved the world that He GAVE!....*
- There is never any mention of anyone else!
~No mention of his family ~No mention of his friends
~No mention of thankfulness to God ~No mention of those around him that are in need.

NOTHING: He was only concerned with Himself

That is totally inconsistent with someone who is a follower of Jesus

Phil 2:1-5

4. Encourage Them To Pursue The Right Things In Life.

Vs 22-34

Old Joke: Guy spent his entire life “climbing the ladder of success” only to find out...leaning against the wrong wall!
That is what many of us do with our life! We are pursuing the WRONG things!

Jesus is telling us in these next few verses: Get it right! Go after the RIGHT things

- Stop worrying about your basic needs: God has that under control
- Don't be afraid of not having things. God will give you everything you really need
- Seek The things of God FIRST: (Matt) Put your priority there (First in priority and first in place)

Illus: We have this backwards: We put the things of this world, the things of this life, the desires we have first
And then we give to God what we have left over. The problem is...seldom is there anything left!
The world in which we live consumes so much...that by the time we do what we feel we must...
Nothing left for God!
That is why we serve him first...put Him in his rightful place in our lives...and we will flourish

5. Help Them Understand How Their Heart Works!

Vs 34

You have probably heard it 1000 times. “I just follow my heart!”

That sounds so wonderful...so noble...so good. AND SO DANGEROUS!

Jer 17:9 “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*”

If we follow our hearts they will lead us into ALL kinds of things!

IF we want to get it right...we don't follow our heart...AND we don't follow our own logic and thinking

Pr 14:12 “*There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.*”

So then...what DO we follow? We follow the word of God!

Ps 119:105 “*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.*”

We follow the Word of God...And when we do THAT, two things happen:

1. We train our heart!

Heb 5:12 *In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.*

2. And we cleanse our mind and thoughts!

Eph 5:26 “*by the washing with water through the word*”

CONCLUSION:

How Do You Love People Caught Up in Things?

- Teach them to see true Kingdom things...
- Warn them to Protect their heart
- Help them avoid “I” disease
- Encourage them to pursue the RIGHT things: Kingdom of God
- Teach the how the heart works.

Maybe this morning...you know Jesus...and YOU are captured...come...Ask God for help reorienting your life
Maybe this morning...you know someone captured...come pray...ask God to open door for you to reach out.