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'A Cure for Covetousness'

Know the Real Jesus

Luke 12:13-21 ESV

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**Covetousness takes many forms - be on guard:**

1. Jesus came not to be our fix it/fulfill me genie – but our **Redeemer** vs 13-15

*<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to Him: Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me. <sup>14</sup>But He said to him: Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you? <sup>15</sup>And He said to them: Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*

**Empty religion, nor silver & gold can save a life that deserves judgement – only Jesus can**

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. **1 Peter 1:17-19**

**Covetousness' first thought is of self, and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>...**

2. The inner voice of a covetousness person **reasons**:

a) All I have is from **me**, for **me**, and I **want** more for **me**.

*<sup>16</sup>And He told them a parable saying: The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup>and he thought to himself: What shall **I** do, for **I** have nowhere to store **my** crops?*

b) I will busy myself with **storing** up more for **me**.

*<sup>18</sup>And he said, **I** will do this: **I** will tear down **my** barns and build larger ones, and there **I** will store all **my** grain and **my** goods.*

**Covetousness dulls a person to their hedonism:**

c) I'm the **master** of my destiny & **soul** and I will retire rich

*<sup>19</sup>And **I** will say to **my** soul: Soul, **you** have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat,*

*drink, be merry.*

**The skillful, savvy, hard working Christian is a testimony to God's grace in one's life – Only make sure it is truly Him who is leading your day to day...**

“Now listen, you who say: Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money. Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say: If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that. As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil” **James 4:13-16**

**Covetousness reveals a life void of God:**

**3.** God is **sovereign** over lives – **fools** live as if He is not.

*<sup>20</sup>But God said to him: Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be? “The fool says in his heart: There is no God.” **Psalm 14:1***

**4.** The cure for foolish greed is **generosity** toward God.

*<sup>21</sup>So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.*

“One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed” **Proverbs 11:24-25**

“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs...” **1 Timothy 6:6-10**

“... Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.” **1 Timothy 6:17-19**