

SUMMER OF SIN: GREED

July 5, 2026

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Luke 12:13-34

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will

they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

²²He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³²"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unchanging treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near, and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Jesus connects greed with an abundance of possessions and cautions that possessions do not equal life (v. 15).
 - a. What messages have you received regarding possessions and their importance for your life?
 - b. If possessions do not equal life – or a good life - what does?
3. In what ways are we like the rich landowner who tears down his barns so he can have more room for his additional crops?

GREED: Greed is an excessive and insatiable love of or desire for possessing more of something - money, power, or material goods - than a person actually needs or deserves. Often rooted in personal attachment, it drives individuals to accumulate resources at the expense of fairness, community, or the well-being of others. Greed is an inner condition of the heart that manifests in outer actions through the ongoing need to gain and own more and more for ourselves. As we possess more, greed becomes a habit that, in turn, affects our heart and lessens our ability to be generous, leads us to ignore

justice, and undercuts our trust in God.

4. What possessions do you struggle with determining if you have enough?
5. What possessions are difficult to let go of?
6. Right after the parable, Jesus names worry as a problem for humans and then points to the ravens and the lilies as a reminder that God will provide for God's beloved Creation. In what ways do you struggle not to worry and to trust in God to provide for you?
7. Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung points out that "Greed...is anchored in pride and nourished by it...the desire to take over God's role ...and, therefore, to not have to depend on God." Do you agree or disagree? What other sins do you think are connected to Greed?
8. The virtue we can practice to free ourselves from the grip of Greed is giving – giving generously. What does giving generously mean to you? How does giving to God and others point our hearts to the kingdom of God?

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