

**Small Groups – Leader’s Guide**  
**Luke 12:13-21 “The Healing of ‘More Wanting’”**

1. The apostle Paul once said, “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.” Do you think this resonates with reality? If not, why? If so, give examples.

*This is simply a reflection question to get your group comfortable with engaging in the topic and with one another. Try to shift the conversation away from seeing it only as something out there with the super wealthy, to being able to recognize it in ourselves.*

**Read Luke 12:13-21**

2. Who is this parable addressed to? What does this tell us about the applicability of this parable to us?

*This teaching is directed toward the crowd, whose only possessions are the clothes on their back or what they are carrying. This invites us to consider that “more wanting” is a money sickness that is present in every single one of us regardless of what we have. Yes to varying degrees and in varying ways but present nonetheless...*

3. Jesus says, “Take care, be on guard for greed.” (In the original language this means “more wanting”). In what ways is greed hidden from us? What damage does greed cause in our lives?

*We seem to think this is only a disease of the wealthy and since we can always find someone who is wealthier than us who spends more lavishly on themselves than we do we think - well that’s their problem not ours.*

*Money unravels our sense of self as we define ourselves in reference to it.*

*Our love of money leads us to commodify relationships as the primary question becomes - what can you bring me?*

*Our love of money as a society has ravaged our planet to drive the engine of economic growth.*

*There is certainly more to be said here – but I wanted to provide just a few thoughts to trigger your group’s reflecting.*

4. How would you describe the rich man? What does he say, think, and do that makes him a fool in the eyes of God? Where do you see contemporary examples of the same behavior?

*There is not much that likely surprises us in the rich man's consideration of what to do with his bumper crop. He confers with himself – of course he does his decision to make. He gives emphasis to saving for the future, increasing his standard of living. We would see this as wise money management and the fitting reward for hard work. His original listeners would have been scandalized by this for they would seek the wisdom of others and consider family and community as they considered how to use the surplus to benefit the world around them.*

*The man steps back to take stock and says, I have many goods stored up for many years relax. He has found his security in money.*

*He steps back and says, now I have food, drink and merriment. Warren Weirsbe who was a seminary professor, author and writer once insightfully said: Money is the God of this age and it empowers millions of people to enjoy life by living on substitutes. Money can buy entertainment, but it can't buy joy. Money can allow us to go to the drug store and purchase sleeping pills, but it can't buy us peace. Money can attract lots of acquaintances but very few friends. Wealth can bring you reputation, admiration, and acclaim but not love. It can buy you the best of medical services but not health.*

The parable invites us to two major shifts in relationship with money. To come to understand that we are not owners but stewards, and that we are treasured by God beyond imagining.

5. How can we practically treat money and possessions as a steward and not an owner? (Changing the question from: How much of my money will I use for God's purposes to how much of God's money will I use for my purposes?)

*Perhaps a first step may be the recovery of the biblical baseline of tithing. Giving away 10% of our income toward kingdom endeavors.*

*Greed says live over your means so that you might enjoy the only life you will ever have. Jesus says leave beneath your means and give the rest away.*

*Greed says invest in your life now. Jesus says invest in people, invest in the kingdom, invest in what will last forever.*

8. How can one be "rich toward God" (vs. 21)? See also 2 Corinthians 8:9

*When Paul writes to the church in Corinth inviting them to give generously to the church in Jerusalem which is facing severe famine he reminds them of God's love for them.*

*"You know the grace of God that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that you by his poverty might become rich"*

*He is saying that Jesus had infinite wealth, power, and position. He could have held onto it but instead he poured it out for you. Took your sin, that you might have freedom and forgiveness, welcomed into the family of God. Gave up his heavenly glory to make you his treasure. If that reality takes a hold of your heart it will restructure your relationship to money.*

9. How does knowing we are treasured by God lead to the healing of our relationship with money and possessions?

*If you are anxious about money, have disdain for those who have more, are constantly thinking about it, protecting it, pursuing it, unable to give it away its because we lack the inner wealth of knowing how much we are treasured by Jesus.*

*For when we know how much we are treasured by Him money will just be money. It won't be security, it won't be beauty, it won't be reputation, it won't be whatever... it'll just be money.*

*In the hands of a kingdom people, a treasured people, money becomes food for the hungry, clothing for the naked, shelter for the stranger, family for the widow and orphan, good news for the lost, justice for the oppressed, healing for the sick.*