

Jesus Provides **STRENGTH** for Life's Purpose

Luke 12:13-20

Question:

- Do you ever wonder if your life is making any real difference in the world in which you live??

Question:

- Don't you want your life to make a difference in the world?
- Don't you want to think that at least some of what you are doing with your life is making a positive and lasting impact on the world?

EX. I can remember pondering these type questions as a teenager, and wondering...

- What could I do with my life that would help this world be a better place?
- What could I do that would out-live me?
- How could I spend my life in such a way, that when I was gone, what I had done would continue to have lasting impact in the world?

But all the time I was pondering these various possibilities as ways to invest my life, the Holy Spirit of God was continually "bothering" me about becoming a Christian and making difference through the Kingdom of God for the glory of God. Does it matter what I do with my life? Can I do something that has eternal decisions? This is what I am learning:

- I really believe my life is making a difference in this world.
- I really believe my life is being used of God to make an impact on this world, and on people that will be lasting fruit throughout all eternity.

- I really believe God's church is making a difference in our world... I believe Christians are having an impact, a lasting impact on our world for the cause of Christ.

You know, I believe that only two things will really last forever...

- (1) The Word of God.
- (2) People

So I want to invest myself into those things that will "out-last" me.

Do you ever have the frightening thought that you may be spending your life on things that really don't matter?

EX. Did you ever wonder what people would say about you at your funeral if you were to die today?... Did you ever wonder if any body would even be at your funeral?

Someone has said the greatest tragedy of all is the tragedy of "A Wasted Life."

Jesus died, was buried and arose again so that no one would ever have to live the tragedy of a wasted life again.

Let's read about a man Jesus told of who truly wasted his life. He spent his entire life accumulating wealth, living for the moment, getting ahead in his business.. And then suddenly one night when he least expected it, he died. Everything he had spent his life and energies on died with him... He had wasted his entire life...

Luke 12:13-21

13 Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

14 But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?"

15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

- 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.
- 17 “And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’
- 18 “So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.
- 19 ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’
- 20 “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’
- 21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (NKJ)

Does it sound like this man is living in the 21st century or what?

He got on the “fast track” of life and he stayed there.

He spent his entire life...

- making money,
- accumulating stuff,
- buying toys,
- moving up the ladder,
- building a strong portfolio,
- making profitable investments,
- saving for the future...

And one day it seemed like all his hard work had finally paid off. Now he could take an early retirement, and do some of the things he had dreamed all his life of doing. He had worked hard all his life... And now it was time to “Party!”

There is only one unexpected “kink” in his plan...

- Something happened he hadn’t planned for...
- Something happened that disrupted everything...
- Something really inconvenient happened...

HE DIED!!... I mean death was a major inconvenience for this guy!

You know, death will put a whole new perspective on this man’s life.

- Suddenly everything that had seemed so very important to him... Now seemed to be pretty trivial and insignificant.
- Suddenly the things he had worked so hard to acquire had little value to him
- Suddenly the investments he had made were paying dividends that he could never liquidate and/or enjoy

I have to tell you, I am impressed with this man. He was a model of success and personal achievement.

- He obviously had a lot of personal ABILITY
- He obviously had a lot of personal AMBITION
- He obviously had a lot of personal ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
- He obviously had a lot of personal ASSETS...

But upon closer evaluation, when you get to the end of his story, you come to the stark realization that this man really squandered it all. He wasted all his God-give ability, ambition, acumen, accomplishments and assets. He wasted it all.

Listen to God’s distilled perspective and evaluation of this man’s life. Verse 19 and 20 says it all....

Luke 12:20 20 *“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’(NKJ)*

This sounds strangely familiar. Remember **(Mark.8:36)** “What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul.”

Let me ask you...

- Is not this rich man of whom Jesus spoke a vivid picture of our CULTURE today?
- Is not the rich man a vivid picture of the CHURCH today?

God has given us so very... very much, and we are spending it all on ourselves!!

That is exactly what this man did. God gave him a huge wind-fall, and he spent it all on himself.

The things Jesus does not mention about this man may be as significant as the things He does tell us about him...

- There is no mention of friends or intimate relationships
- There is no mention of family or a fulfilling marriage
- There is no mention of spiritual life or values in this man’s life
- There is no mention of any act of generosity or kindness
- There is no mention of any commitment to anyone or anything but himself...

This man appears to be a...

- Totally “SELF-ABSORBED” and “SELF-CONSUMED.”
- Total “Materialists”... His life is consumed with “Stuff” and “Things”

Jesus cuts to the very heart of what this man is missing in Verse 15.

Luke 12:15 15And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”

NOTE: The word Jesus uses for “Life” here is the Greek word *ZOE*... It is describing more than just “biological life” (animals have that). It refers to life on a higher plane. It refers to the kind of life only a person who is “body, soul, and spirit” can experience. Life filled with meaning, purpose, joy, fulfillment, security, and genuine love.

Would you not agree that we should listen carefully to what Jesus is trying to teach us in this story, so we can avoid **THE PERIL OF A WASTED LIFE?**

- Who among us wants to arrive at the end of our lives, and look back and have to say, “I’ve spent and wasted everything on myself, and I have given no attention to the things that really matter in life.”

Let’s examine 3 things related to this tragic story.

I. THE MISCONCEPTIONS THAT LEADS TO A WASTED LIFE.

II. THE MISMANAGEMENT THAT LEADS TO A WASTED LIFE.

III. THE MORTALITY THAT LEADS TO A WASTED LIFE.

I. THE MISCONCEPTIONS THAT LEAD TO A WASTED LIFE.

- Let me suggest to you that this man’s problems go very deep, and they go back a long, long ways... All the way back to the Garden of Eden.
 - This man is simply repeating the same pattern of life that his ancestors (and our ancestors) Adam and Eve lived.
1. You will waste your life when you have the wrong **POINT OF REFERENCE**: Living a SELF-centered life, rather than a GOD-centered life
 - a. Notice that this man is the center of his own life... He is totally self-centered, self-focused, self-absorbed.

b. All this guy is thinking about is himself... Notice the first person pronouns “I” and “My” are used 10 TIMES in his brief recorded statements...

V.17 “And he thought within himself saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store MY crops?”

V.18 “So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down MY barns and build greater, and there I will store all MY goods.

V.19 ‘And I will say to MY soul, “Soul you have many good laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”

c. It is a sad and pitiful thing when a man’s point of reference is shifted from “God-centered” living to “Self-centered” living.

d. When a person lives a “Self-centered” point of reference as opposed to a “God-centered” point of reference he/she becomes a total CONSUMER.

e. By the way this mega-shift in our disposition toward life took place a long time ago, in the life of our ancestors Adam and Eve. It all happened in a moment of tragedy in the Garden of Eden....

- God created man for himself
- Man’s entire purpose and meaning for existence was wrapped up in his unique relationship with God
- This is what set man apart from the other living creatures on earth... Man was a “living soul” built with the unique capacity to know and love God, and to live in a life-giving relationship with Creator God.
- Adam and Eve had a utopian life as long as their life was “God-centered”... But one day they gave it all up, and everything changed...

Gen 3:6-10

- 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.
- 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.
- 8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
- 9 Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"
- 10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."
(NKJ)

- There it is... In one fell-swoop, man shifted his entire point of reference, and moved from God-centered living to Self-centered living.
- Before the fall, man had a "Sense of Purpose" that was centered exclusively on God... After the fall man lost his "Sense of Purpose" and now he was on a "Search for Purpose."
- Rather than finding his purpose and meaning for life in a holy, love relationship with Creator God...
- It was a curse and now man began to try to find purpose and meaning in

(1) What He could PRODUCE...

Gen 3:17-19

- 17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field.
- 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (NKJ)

(2)What he could POSSESS...

- f. So we are all the sons of Adam, and we are born with a pre-disposed bent toward “Self-centered” living.

NOTICE the shift that happened in the Garden of Eden...

Gen.1:27 (Before the fall) the Bible says, “God created man in his own image”

Gen.5:3 (After the fall) the Bible says, “Adam begot a son in his own image...”

- g. And the whole reason Jesus Christ came and gave Himself in death on the cross, was to restore man back to his original created disposition of “God-centered” living instead of “Self-centered” living.

2. You will waste your life when you have the wrong **BASIS OF IDENTITY**: An identity wrapped up in what you PRODUCE and what you POSSESS.

- a. Since this rich man was living life with an entirely **WRONG POINT OF REFERENCE** (Self-centered rather than God-centered). It only follows that he would also be looking in all the wrong places for his **SOURCE OF IDENTITY**.

b. His identity was obviously wrapped up in:

(1)What he **PRODUCED**...

(2)What he **POSSESSED**...

c. This distorted sense of value and personal identity also goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden and the fall of our forefather Adam.

- Prior to the fall, Adam’s sense of identity (that which distinguished him from all other creatures) was his unique relationship with Creator God

- After the fall that relationship was destroyed, and now Adam began to build his identity out the things he could produce with his abilities and the things he could possess.
- d. We haven't changed much since Adam have we!! We still find so much of our personal identity in the things we PRODUCE and the things we POSSESS.
- e. We been deceived into believing that PRODUCING more stuff and POSSESSING more stuff somehow makes us a more valuable person.
- We buy a certain size house in a certain neighborhood because that somehow gives us status
 - We drive a certain automobile because that somehow makes a status statement about us
 - We purchase a certain brand name of cloths because there is status associated with what we wear.
- f. Since our identity is so wrapped up in what we PRODUCE and what we POSSESS, we commit the sin of *COVETOUSNESS*... (The reason we covet more and more things is because we believe they will help us fee better about ourselves. They will elevate our status and somehow make us more valuable as people.)
- It began with Satan, the father of all lies when he said to Eve in essence... "God is holding out on you. He knows that if you eat this fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil *YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD*..." Do you see it? At the very heart of Satan's temptation with Eve was her personal identity. She was just a mere creature.. but she could become like the Creator if only she had this forbidden fruit in her possession.

- In **Luke 12:15** Jesus is trying to give us the antidote for Satan's BIG FAT LIE, by telling us the truth about where our true identity is found.... "Take heed of covetousness, for one's life (his sense of identity and purpose and self-worth) does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses".... (v.21) It consists entirely in "being rich toward God."

3. You will waste your life when you look to the **WRONG SOURCES FOR FULFILLMENT: POSSESSION and PLEASURE.**

- a. The two places this rich man went to find fulfillment, security and contentment were:
 - (1) POSSESSIONS and,
 - (2) PLEASURE.

Luke 12:19 *'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'* (NKJ)

- b. Since he was looking for fulfillment in his possessions and in pleasure, he fell into the self-consuming black holes of :
 - (1) HOARDING and
 - (2) HEDONISM
- c. He was thinking the way to really be happy, content and fulfilled in life is to "hoard my possessions" and to "do anything that brings me pleasure" So he got into the party scene.
- d. Little did he know that the real secret to finding genuine contentment and fulfillment in life was not "Hoarding" his possessions or "Satisfying every whim of his lusts and flesh." The real secret to genuine peace, contentment and fulfillment in life was to be found in "Being rich toward God." (v.21)

4. You will waste your life when the **WRONG VIEW OF SUCCESS:** That you are a **SELF-MADE** person.

a. Do you think this rich man Jesus described thought of himself as a “SELF-MADE MAN?” I am sure he did. The evidence of that is in how he viewed his possessions.

v.17 “And he thought within himself, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store **MY** crops?’

v.18 “So he said, ‘I will do this; I will pull down **MY** barns and build greater, and there I will store all **MY** crops and **MY** goods.’”

b. This man had a totally erroneous view of success

c. Can I tell you a little secret... THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A “SELF-MADE” MAN!!

Ps 75:6-7 *6 For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: he puts down one, and exalts another. (NKJ)*

Deut 8:18 *18 “And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth...”*

1 Cor 4:7 *7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?*

5. You will waste your life when you have the wrong view of OWNERSHIP: That you are an OWNER rather than a STEWARD.

a. This rich man had a totally erroneous view of ownership..... Listen once again:

V.17 “And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store **MY** crops. (18) So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down **MY** barns and build greater, and there I will store all **MY** crops and **MY** goods.’”

- b. I wonder if the thought ever occurred to him, that just maybe these barns, crops and goods did not really belong to him, but they belonged to God?
- c. I wonder if the thought every occurred to him that he is an OWNER of nothing (God owns it all) he is merely a STEWARD or a MANAGER of God's possessions.
- d. You know, we don't own anything, God owns it all (He simply allows you and me to be the stewards of His possessions.)

Ps 89:11 11 *The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; the world and all its fullness, You have founded them.*

Ps 50:10-11 10 *For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine.*

Hag 2:8 8 *'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts.*

- Nothing we have really belongs to us... It all belongs to God. He created it, and He owns it
- The question never is "How much of MY money should I give to God?"... The right question is "How much of GOD'S money should I keep for myself?"

CONCL. OF POINT:

1. THE MISCONCEPTIONS OF A WASTED LIFE

You will waste your life when you have ...

1. The Wrong Reference Point: Self-centered rather than God-centered
2. The Wrong Source of Identity: What you Produce and Possess
3. The Wrong Source of Fulfillment: Possessions and Pleasures
4. The Wrong view of SUCCESS: That you are a SELF-MADE person
5. The Wrong view of OWNERSHIP: That you are an OWNER rather than a STEWARD.

II. THE MISMANAGEMENT OF A WASTED LIFE.

- If a person has MISCONCEPTIONS about the very fundamentals of life itself... Then they are destined to MISMANAGE their lives as well.
- You are going to manage your life on a daily basis according to your basic beliefs and values.
- This rich man made some bad “Life management” decisions because he had developed totally erroneous concepts of what life is about in the first place.

1. You mismanage your life when you live for the IMMEDIATE rather than the ETERNAL.

- a. I am assuming you are here today because you sense there is more to life than just the “Here and Now.”
 - There is an eternal side to everyone of our lives...
 - There is an eternity to someday face
- b. If we did not really believe there is an Eternal God to whom we must someday give an accounting of our lives, and an Eternity to be lived and experienced in either heaven or hell, then we are just wasting our time here today. If there is not an eternity facing all of us... then let's turn out the lights and go home.
- c. If there is not an eternity to face in the future, then let's adopt the philosophy of this rich man, and “spend everything on ourselves and party away our lives.”
- d. If this is all there is... Then the rich man was right!!!
(Jesus was wrong. This man is no fool... if this is all there is to life!)

- e. But I am banking on the fact that Jesus was right!!! And the rich man was wrong.
 - Jesus said it this way in another place.. “What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?” (Mk.8:36)
 - The point is, “It is ridiculous to sacrifice the only thing you have that will last forever and ever to gain ‘stuff’ that is temporal.
- f. Jesus said we are to conduct our lives, and invest our resources in things that will last forever...

Matt 6:19-21 *19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 “but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- g. Some of us are living our lives as if there is no tomorrow... And when you live only for immediate gratification, and do not take the long look and live in anticipation of Eternity... You are destined to totally waste your life.
 - h. I promise you this... A lot of us would live our lives radically differently if we could just see down the road 20 years... 50 years... 100 years... 1,000 years.
2. You mismanage your life when you are governed by GREED rather than GENEROSITY.
- a. This rich man was totally consumed with himself...
 - Apparently he never thought of giving God praise for the successes God had given him... He took all the credit for himself.

- Apparently he never thought of using any of his material wealth to invest in the Kingdom of God
 - Apparently he never thought of using any of his wealth to meet the needs of people who were poor and relieve the suffering of people less fortunate than himself.
 - Apparently he never thought about what percentage of his gross revenue should be given back to God in tithes and offerings.
 - Apparently he never thought of anyone but himself.
- b. When you get your paycheck at the end of the week, what is the first thought that goes through your mind with regards to that money?...
- c. Here are a couple of sad facts...?
- EX.** Christians in America spend more money on the lottery than they give to God through their churches every year.
- EX.** Christians in America spend..
- \$2 billion a year on foreign missions
 - \$3 billion a year on fish food
 - \$4 billion a year on dog food
 - \$5 billion a year of snuff
- d. Those are the sad facts... We aren't really much different than this rich man Jesus spoke of, are we?? We are consumed with ourselves, spending everything we can on ourselves.
- e. We are driven more by GREED than we are GENEROSITY.
- f. Yet Jesus promised He would bless generosity, and supernaturally enrich our lives if we would only be governed by a spirit of generosity instead of greed...

Luke 6:38 38 “Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

3. You mismanage your life when you live by SIGHT rather than by FAITH.
 - a. This rich man obviously exercised no faith in how he managed his life and money. He managed his affairs purely by human calculation...

EX. Listen to the words of V.17 again... “He thought within himself...”

- Here lies the root of his problem... He is making decision exclusively by his own reasoning, logic and calculation.
- There is no hint whatsoever that this man ever once consulted God or the Bible in his decisions.
- He had no interest in trying to discern what the Spirit of God may be saying to him with regards to his recent windfall... He simply *“thought within himself.”*

- b. Let me ask you something... When it comes to managing your life, are you managing it by FAITH or by SIGHT...

2 Corinthians 5:7 says, “For we walk by FAITH, not by SIGHT.”

- c. When it comes to you money and your finances... Are you really managing your finances by faith, according to the dictates of God’s Word... OR... Are you merely using your calculator and human reason to figure out what to do with your money.
- d. When it comes to what you are investing in the Kingdom of God through your church week by week, are you giving your offerings based of FAITH or based on SIGHT?

CONCL. OF POINT:

II. THE MISMANAGEMENT OF A WASTED LIFE.

1. You mismanage your life when you live for the IMMEDIATE rather than the ETERNAL.
2. You mismanage your life when you are governed by GREED rather than GENEROSITY.
3. You mismanage your life when you live by SIGHT rather than by FAITH.

III. THE MORTALITY OF A WASTED LIFE.

- Something happened to this rich man just when he was at the pinnacle of success..
- Something happened he had not planned for.
- Something happened that he knew was eventually inevitable... But he had tried to ignore it...

HE DIED!!!

Luke 12:19-21 19 ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.” 20 “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you;’..... (WOW BUMMER)“then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

(GOOD QUESTION!! His estate probably will have to go through Probate Court, and the state will levy a heavy tax of up to 50% on his estate, then a Probate judge will determine the disposition and distribution of that estate... Again “BUMMER.”)
21 “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (NKJ)

Did you see what is happening here??... This man’s SOUL is about to go into “RECEIVERSHIP” and he is morally, spiritually, eternally BANKRUPT!!

1. Death came to the rich man as a SURPRISE:

a. The last thing this man expected was to die. He must have been a relatively young man. One thing for sure, he expected to live for many more years.

NOTICE what he said to himself... v.19 “And I will say to my soul, “ Soul, you have many goods laid up *FOR MANY YEARS*; take your ease; eat, drink and be merry.”

b. This man made the foolish mistake of “Presuming upon God” and “Presuming” upon life. He “Presumed” he was going to live a long, natural life... HE PRESUMED WRONGLY!!!

c. Hey... Don’t make the same mistake and presume you have plenty of time to make preparation for eternity.

d. Some of you have been making the very same mistake this man made, and presuming you had plenty of time to...

- Get right with God
- Get your spiritual house in order
- Get your life cleaned up
- Get saved and get serious about spiritual matters.

e. You’re presuming that you have many years of life left and you can think about spiritual things later... First you have lots of “LIVING” to do!!!

f. Some of you in this very room... And some of you listening by television are going to wake up to the very same shock this man woke up to... You’re going to discover that you don’t have lots of time left...

g. Listen, you need to live just like today was your last day of life... That is the only way to live life with no regrets.

- h. We do not have the assurance of one more minute of life....
Death comes suddenly, and often just when we least expect it...

2. Death came to the rich man SUDDENLY.

V.20 God said to him, ‘Fool! *THIS NIGHT* your soul shall be required of you;...’

- a. There was no time to...
- Reverse all the bad decisions...
 - Make amends to all the people he had hurt...
 - Rebuild all the broken relationships...
 - Reinvest in things of eternal value...
 - Make up for all the wasted days and years...
 - Make things right

Death came SUDDENLY... And it was over!!! The day of opportunity was forever gone.

- b. It happens this way all too often for far too many people... The put off and put off getting things right, and suddenly one day it is too late...
- Death comes, and
 - their life has been wasted and
 - the day of opportunity if forever lost.
- c. Listen friend... The time for you to get right with God, right with other people is NOW it is today..

2 Cor 6:2 Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (NKJ)

d. Let me tell you also.... NOW is the time to begin “laying up for yourself treasures in heaven.”

EX. Some of you are thinking, “I’ll start tithing when...

- I get caught up on my bills
- I get ahead in my business
- I get the kids out of school
- I get a little further down the road in my career
- I get our first house bought
- I get my college debt paid off

I’m telling you.... At every stage of your life, Satan will give you reason for putting off getting your finances in order and to begin to obey God in your giving.

e. There will never be a better day than TODAY to get started obeying God in your giving.

3. Upon his death the rich man was required to give an ACCOUNTING of his life.

In **V.20** God said to him ‘Fool!! This night *YOUR SOUL WILL BE REQUIRED OF YOU...*’

NOTE: The word “Required” comes from the word *APAITOUSUN...* It means literally “To demand back.”

- a. God was going to “demand back” the life, resources, and opportunities he had given this man
- b. Someday, God is going to “demand back” the life, resources and opportunities He has given you.
- c. **THERE IS A DAY OF DIVINE ACCOUNTING AND RECKONING COMING FOR ALL OF US...**

Heb 9:27 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (NKJ)

- d. When you and I die... God will “demand back” the life, resources and opportunities He has given us. He will demand an accounting of what we have done with all the things He has given us...

Matt 25:14-30

- 14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.
- 15 “And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.
- 16 “Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.
- 17 “And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.
- 18 “But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money.
- 19 “After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.
- 20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’
- 21 “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’
- 22 “He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’
- 23 “His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’
- 24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.
- 25 ‘And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’
- 26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

- 27 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.
- 28 'Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.
- 29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.
- 30 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'
- (NKJ)

“To whom much is given... Much is required” (Lk.12:48)

CONCL. OF MESSAGE:

- If today your soul would be “demanded back” from you... How would you fare??
- Would you enter eternity with the regrets of a wasted life?
- Are you ready to give an accounting of your life before God today?
- Why are you living your life as if there is no tomorrow or no judgment to come?

(1) Today some of you need to quit putting God off, and you need to come today to surrender your life to Jesus Christ

(2) Today some of you need to repent of wasting all your resources on yourself and commit to obeying God in your finances ... You need to commit to tithing.

(3) Some of you need to join this church and get involved doing something that will last forever. You've been living your life only for yourself. You need to begin making an investment in the Kingdom of God.