

08.10.22 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “It’s All About Me”

Scripture Reading: [Luke 12:13-21](#)

Reflection: Rev. George Vink

Pastor Henry shared a wonderful insight from a book he read while on vacation. In an insightful exchange, August rewords Lily’s observation and concludes, “The hardest thing on earth is choosing what matters.” A memorable and meaningful quote worth applying.

In today’s scripture, Jesus is asked to arbitrate between brothers and, as is too often the case, it’s about “stuff.” Jesus declines to do so and “Then said to them, ‘Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.’” Also, a memorable and meaningful quote worth applying! Life’s not about “stuff!” Then Jesus follows it with a story, a rather hard-hitting parable.

Hearing God say, “You fool!” followed by “Tonight you die!” has us cringing if we’ve identified with Mr. Rich Man as we’re expected to do. “You fool!” is a strong derogatory indictment, seldom used then, and has similar implications yet. It comes in a context of woes and warnings leading the Pharisees to “oppose him fiercely and besiege Jesus...” In the midst of all Jesus’ teaching that offends, someone selfishly asks him to choose between brothers. And, instead of acting as a Rabbi might, Jesus taught about greed and selfishness.

Mr. Rich Man is clearly identified as someone whose focus in life is himself. The parable’s next sentences are dominated by first-person pronouns. The “I, me, my, and myself” are followed by the selfish prescription to himself, “You have plenty...Take life easy, eat, drink and be merry.” All the greedy selfishness comes to an abrupt halt. Hear it from Jesus! “But God said to him...!” Let’s listen carefully here. It’s happening to us too. We plan, we scheme, we project, we...Recall Jesus’ saying, “Watch out!” (vs. 15) right at the beginning!

The warning is needed. We’re not always good at choosing what really matters. We like possessions like nicer homes, fancier cars, or unique vacations. We slip into our culture’s expectations and its selfish “pursuit of happiness.” Advertisers spend millions on promoting it. As disciples, we need to choose, with our heads and our hearts, what matters. Often our possessions possess us, we focus on stuff, forgetting Christ’s call to “Deny yourself and take up my cross.”

We need to be wisely aware of the powerful influence material things exercise. We need to be aware of “Who has whom?” or “What has me?” A look at the checkbook or visa account provides a picture. Let’s ask ourselves, “What does God see about me and my stuff?” Listening to Jesus, let’s look and see what choices we’re making. What’s God saying?

Prayer:

Giver of life, love, and stuff, help me to look at my life and see what I’m doing with what You are entrusting to me. Am I generous with the possessions You’ve provided? Help me make decisions reflecting a desire to serve

You. Grant me a rich measure of Your Spirit. Amen.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Become very conscious of your use of first-person pronouns. How often am I using the “I, Me, My,” or even a misguided “We, Us or Our?” How do I(We) determine how I vote?

Songs for today:

[Dwell in Me, O Blessed Spirit](#)

[We Give You But Your Own](#)

[I Surrender All](#)