

'THE REALLY GOOD LIFE'

(Life of Christ Series)

Luke 12

Review: To be someone that God can abundantly bless, you must **'unleaven your life'** and become less vulnerable to **'hypocrisy'** (**Luke 12:1-12**). *Leaven* is to your soul and spirit, what yeast is to bread dough – fungi is injected, permeates and ferments the dough (human heart) causing its host to enlarge and change form. In Scripture, *leaven* is almost always used as a very negative influence that unfavorably alters a person's mind, soul and spirit. If the spiritual *leaven* of either worldly attraction or religious self-righteousness is allowed in the heart, mind and soul, hypocrisy will result. Hypocrisy (literally *'behind or under a mask'*) is faking it on the outside to fool others into thinking you are someone other than who you really are inside. Hypocrisy moves a person out and away from the position of blessability from God. If a person dies as a hypocrite in God's view, he or she will be eternally forbidden entry into heaven, the ultimate position of blessability (**Matthew 24:45-51**). The infection of *leaven* quarantines its carrier from heaven.

#1 Break with hypocrisy	(12:1-12)	Transparency
#2 Liberality in charity	(12:13-21)	Generosity
#3 Envy-free character	(12:22-34)	Tranquility
#4 Second-coming hope	(12:35-40)	Expectancy
#5 Sacrificial service	(12:41-48)	Ministry
#6 Enduring loyalty	(12:49-53)	Endurance
#7 Devoted to reconciliation	(12:54-59)	Humility

The committed follower of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot stand a duplicitous lifestyle (in himself or others) and will earnestly seek to be blessable by being righteous on the outside and the inside. Disciples must remain as aloof as possible from the world and pretentious religion to avoid being spiritually-leavened by their influence. For a picture of how the blessable life actually looks and feels, please see **Matthew 5:1-16** (*the 'Be-Attitudes'*).

'Be Blessable!'

'BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS'

(The Deception of 'I-dollar-try')

Luke 12:13-21

The Fatal Flaw of Materialism

(The Crippling Influence of Loving 'Stuff')

The Problem

"Then one from the crowd said to Him (Jesus), "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" **12:13-14**

Love of 'stuff' plugs your ears to hearing God
Love of 'stuff' covers your eyes to seeing Christ
Love of 'stuff' distracts you from eternal issues
Love of 'stuff' destroys your personal relationships

"Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." **1 Timothy 6:6-10**

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God, abides forever."

1 John 2:15-17

The Folly of Possessions Lesson *(The Curing Influence of Learning Scripture)*

The Principle

*“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**.”* 12:15

Avarice deceives you about what’s important
Avarice turns blessings into ‘self-idolatry’
Avarice robs you of God’s purpose for living
Avarice makes you a servant rather than a steward

*“**You shall not covet** your neighbor’s wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor’s house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbors.”*

Deuteronomy 5:21/ an expansion of Exodus 20:17

*“Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, **nor covetous**, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”*

1 Corinthians 6:9-10

*“But fornication and all uncleanness or **covetousness**, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor **covetous man (who is an idolater)** has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.”*

Ephesians 5:3-7

*“Let your conduct be **without covetousness; be content** with such things as you have.”*

Hebrews 13:5

*“You lust and do not have. You murder and **covet and cannot obtain** ... **You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures** ... friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be **a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God**.”*

James 4:2-4

The Foolish Farmer Parable *(The ‘Constrictor’ Influence of a ‘Stuffed Soul’)*

The Parable

*“Then He spoke a parable to them, saying, “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he **thought within himself**, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to **store my crops**?’ 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. 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.”’ 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?’ So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”* 12:16-21

*“**Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where thieves do not break in and steal. For **where your treasure is, there your heart will be also**.”*

Matthew 6:19-21

“And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” **Acts 20:35**

*“**Command those who are (affluent) in this present age** not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, Who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they **be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share**, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may **lay hold on eternal life**.”*

1 Timothy 6:17-19