

SERMON NOTES

SUNDAY 14.09.25

PREACHER: PS NATHAN BEAN

Where Your Treasure Is

BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

BEING [HEART], THINKING [MIND] & DOING [BODY]
[A PERSONAL REFLECTION]

Conviction of a Disciple:

A disciple trusts God and gives every part of life over to his Lordship.

OVERVIEW

Jesus spoke about money more than almost anything else—not because he was obsessed with wealth, but because he understood how easily it can compete for our hearts. In Luke 12, he warns us to be on guard against greed, reminding us that our lives do not consist in the abundance of possessions. True freedom comes not through accumulation, but through trust in God and radical generosity.

ACTION

Step 1: Is there a situation in your life where fear is guiding your financial decision more than faith?

Step 2: What might be revealed if you allowed God to shine a light on your heart in the area of money?

Step 3: Is there a step of radical generosity towards others you feel nudged to take this week?

THOUGHT

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:13–34

Some sins are obvious. When someone lies, steals, or lashes out in anger, we see it. We can easily name it. But greed slips by unnoticed. It hides behind what's 'normal' and what's celebrated in the culture surrounding us. Greed disguises itself as wisdom, success, or even God's blessing. But in reality, greed keeps us spiritually asleep – lulled by comfort and dulled by our attempts at self-preservation. That's why Jesus doesn't just warn against greed, but says to be on your guard against it. (Luke 12:15)

Greed is subtle. And it's serious.

In Luke 12, a man asks Jesus to settle a family dispute over an inheritance. But Jesus refuses to play into the trap. He sees past the question and speaks to the heart: "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (v.13) Here, Jesus is speaking about the God-sourced life. The kind of life only found in surrender, in freedom, in the kingdom of God. And you don't get that kind of life by gathering up more; you get it by giving.

It is very important that we remember – Greed is not simply about money. It's about who owns your heart. It's a false gospel that says, "If I just had a little more, I'd feel safe," or "Once I reach this goal, then I'll be content." But that kind of safety and satisfaction is an illusion. You can have full barns and an empty soul. You can have retirement locked in and still die bankrupt toward God. Jesus doesn't just challenge our budget – he challenges our trust. And in following him, we must answer the question: Who are we trusting to provide, to protect, to define what's enough?

This isn't about guilt. It's about guts. The guts to look honestly at our lives and ask: Have I built barns where Jesus asked me to set tables? Have I told myself I'm "being wise" when really I'm being self-concerned? Have I called a blessing what might actually be a barrier to my spiritual formation into Christlikeness?

Jesus invites us to be rich toward God. That means using what we have – time, money, home, possessions, energy – in ways that reflect the heart of God's kingdom over personal gain. It means radical generosity. The kind that makes no sense to the outside looking in. The kind that loosens our grip on stuff so we can be held tighter by Christ.

The beautiful thing is that Jesus doesn't just ask this of us, like a controlling overlord; he models it with his very life. He emptied himself. Laid down his rights. Gave it all. That's the shape of divine love. That's the way of the cross. And he says: Follow Me.

In the Kingdom of God, we're not stewards of scarcity; we are stewards of abundance. But that abundance isn't ours to store. It's ours to pour out.

DISCUSSION

[A GROUP REFLECTION]

- 1) Why do you think Jesus saw money as the greatest competitor for our hearts?
- 2) What are some subtle ways greed can blind us?
- 3) How can we encourage one another to practise radical generosity without shame or pride?

PRAYER

Jesus,

We give you our whole hearts, including the parts that hold tightly to comfort, control, or even fear. Teach us to trust you with our finances, and indeed, our whole life. Help us to be generous, not because we have to, but in response to the radical generosity you have modelled through your life for us. May we be rich, not only toward you, but to those around us, and in every area of our lives. Amen.