

Wellspring Covenant Church
February 25, 2024
“Release”
pastor Rebecca



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Luke 12:13-21

A person in the crowd interrupted Jesus.

Person in the Crowd: Teacher, intervene and tell my brother to share the family inheritance with me.

Jesus: Man, who made me your judge or arbitrator?

Then He used that opportunity to speak to the crowd.

Jesus: You’d better be on your guard against any type of greed, for a person’s life is not about having a lot of possessions.

(then, beginning another parable) A wealthy man owned some land that produced a huge harvest. He thought to himself, “I have a problem here. I don’t have anywhere to store all my crops. What should I do? I know! I’ll tear down my small barns and build even bigger ones, and then I’ll have plenty of storage space for my grain and all my other goods. Then I’ll be able to say to myself, ‘I have it made! I can relax and take it easy for years! So I’ll just sit back, eat, drink, and have a good time!’”

Then God interrupted the man’s conversation with himself.

“Excuse Me, Mr. Brilliant, but your time has come. Tonight you will die. Now who will enjoy everything you’ve earned and saved?”

This is how it will be for people who accumulate riches for themselves but have no riches in relation to God.

Message Notes:

In my money story:

- How can I find ways of releasing _____ and _____, which interrupt flourishing?
- What practices of _____ can I use to enjoy _____ which sees the “more to life” (vs. 23) Jesus references?
- Specifically, what is _____ right now that I can loosen my grip on?

Luke 12:22-34

Jesus: (continuing to His disciples) This is why I keep telling you not to worry about anything in life—about what you’ll eat, about how you’ll clothe your body. Life is more than food, and the body is more than fancy clothes. Think about those crows flying over there: do they plant and harvest crops? Do they own silos or barns? *Look at them fly.* It looks like God is taking pretty good care of them, doesn’t it? Remember that you are more precious to God than birds! Which one of you can add a single hour to your life or inches to your height by worrying really hard? If worry can’t change anything, why do you do it so much?

Think about those beautiful wild lilies growing over there. They don’t work up a sweat toiling for needs or wants—they don’t worry about clothing. Yet the great King Solomon never had an outfit that was half as glorious as theirs!

Look at the grass growing over there. One day it’s thriving in the fields. The next day it’s being used as fuel. *If God takes such good care of such transient things,* how much more you can depend on God to care for you, weak in faith as you

are. Don't reduce your life to the pursuit of food and drink; don't let your mind be filled with anxiety. People of the world who don't know God pursue these things, *but you have a Father caring for you*, a Father who knows all your needs.

Since you don't need to worry—about security and safety, about food and clothing—then pursue God's kingdom first and foremost, and these other things will come to you as well.

My little flock, don't be afraid. *God is your Father*, and your Father's great joy is to give you His kingdom.

That means you can sell your possessions and give generously to the poor. You can have a different kind of savings plan: one that never depreciates, one that never defaults, one that can't be plundered by crooks or destroyed by natural calamities. *Your treasure will be stored in the heavens*, and since your treasure is there, your heart will be lodged there as well.

For your Reflection

1. Where has fear interrupted my flourishing, or worry hindered my capacity to share with others?
2. When I think of abundance, what comes to mind? How might "Mr. Brilliant" in the passage answer this question? What about the lilies of the field, or the birds Jesus points out to his listeners?
3. What practices of trust-building do I want to try? Out of a long list that includes practicing hospitality, listening, intentional friendship, charity, justice work, scripture reading, journaling, praying (in all its forms), what's one thing I can pick up during Lent to grow my trust with God?
4. What is under my control right now that I can release to God? Might it be my need to be productive or prove my

worthiness or generosity? Might it be the shame of having "too much" or "too little"? Perhaps it's stress of feeling like I need to save— or give— a certain amount of money.

Pray:

If you can, practice holding your hands open to God in prayer as a symbol of loosening your grip.

Take a deep breath in. As you exhale, release to God anything in your money story that holds fear or worry. Take another deep breath in. As you exhale, remember your belovedness in God. Breathe in and out, releasing and remembering as many times as needed.