

Message Notes

The Rich Fool

Introduction – “What you do in the next 20 minutes will dictate how our family relates for the next 20 years.”

Recap of Jesus vs Religion

Today's Message:
The Rich Fool - Luke 12:13-21

The heckler speaks – Luke 12:13
Context of the interruption – Luke 12:8-12

Jesus AWESOME response – Luke 12:14-15
Do you think this is my job? (Luke 12:14)

Watch out! (Luke 12:15a)
Luke 11:39 , Luke 12:11

Jesus! Are you an American?!?! (Luke 12:15b)

Let me tell you a little story... – Luke 12:16-20
The really great problem (Luke 12:16-17)

The farmer's solution (Luke 12:18)

The speech to his soul (Luke 12:19)

The “twist” of the story (Luke 12:20)

What is a fool?
Psalm 14:1

Why is the guy a fool?

The “punch” line – Luke 12:21
Rich toward Possessions ≠ Rich toward Soul
Rich toward God = Rich toward Soul

Question - What's filling you?

Why is GREED mentioned as the “soul killer”?
Exodus 20:17

Colossians 3:5

Genesis 3:6-7

Romans 1:25

So, how are we to be material people, in a material world, with material needs?

1 Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19

Three by C. S. Lewis

Gospel Application – “What's filling you?
You don't lust enough!”

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”
¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ ¹⁸Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”
²⁰But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’
²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Psalms 14:1

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

Exodus 20:17

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Colossians 3:5

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Genesis 3:6-7

⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked...

Romans 1:25

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19

⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs...
¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Will and Testament

Farmer. I give and devise Henardd being the
leaving legal issue then to my nephew John
Margaret, but subject to the annual payment of
and bequeath all my interest in the stock and
side him. I give and bequeath the sum of
d John the children of my sister
before my mother and
All due

The Gospel of
LUKE

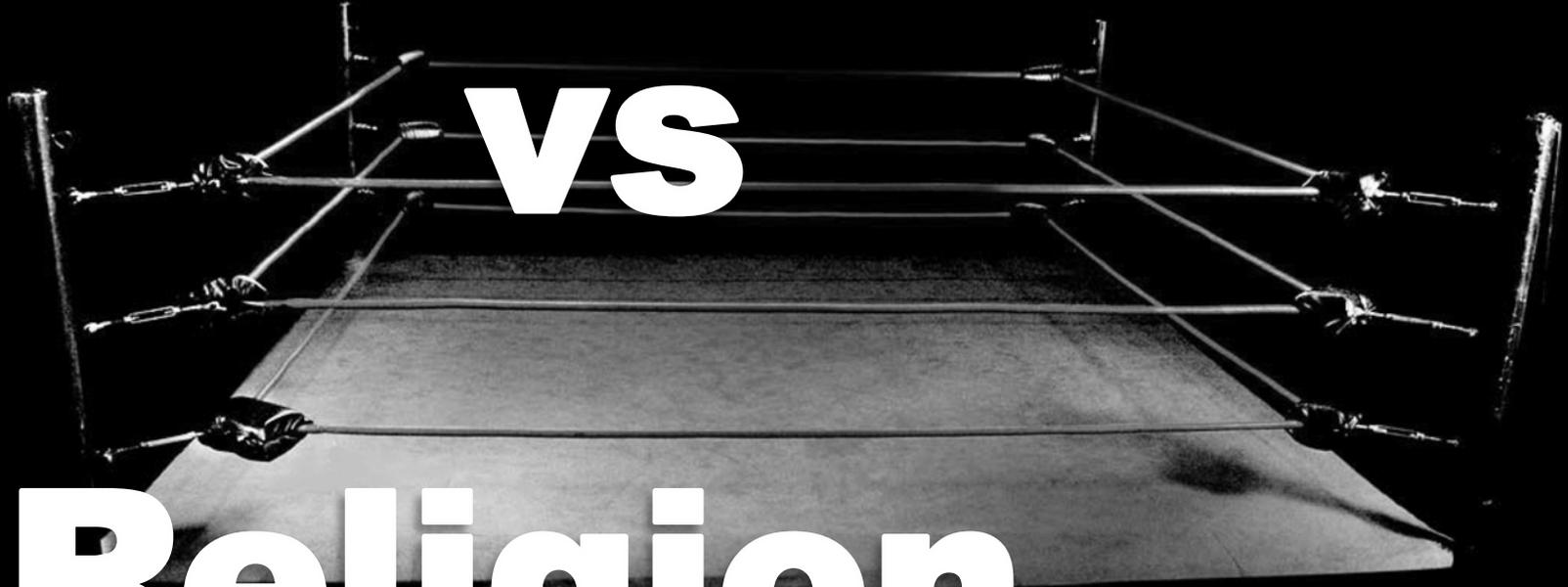
Setting His Face to Jerusalem

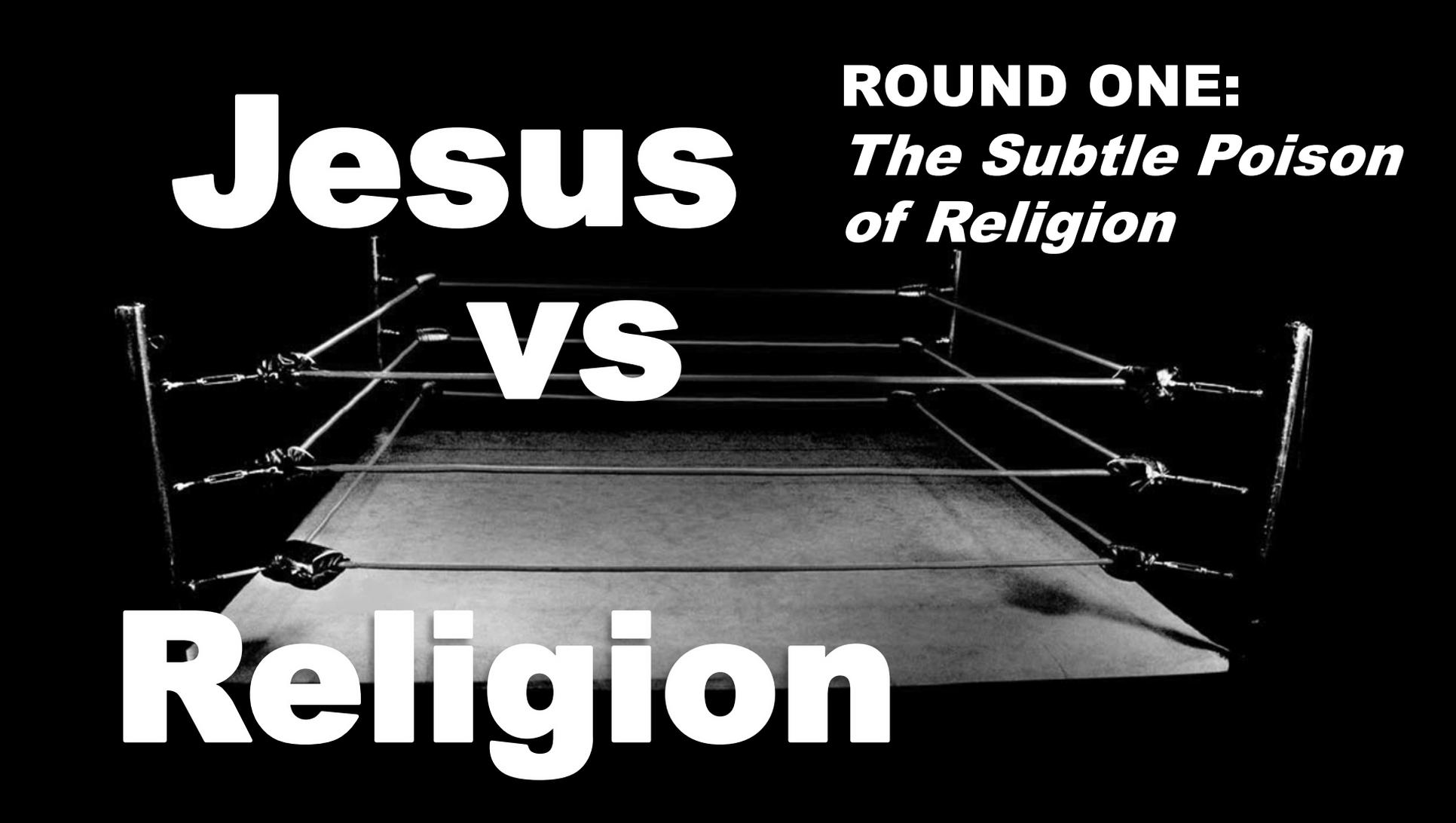
Luke 9:51 to Luke 19:44

Jesus

vs

Religion





Jesus

vs

Religion

ROUND ONE:

*The Subtle Poison
of Religion*



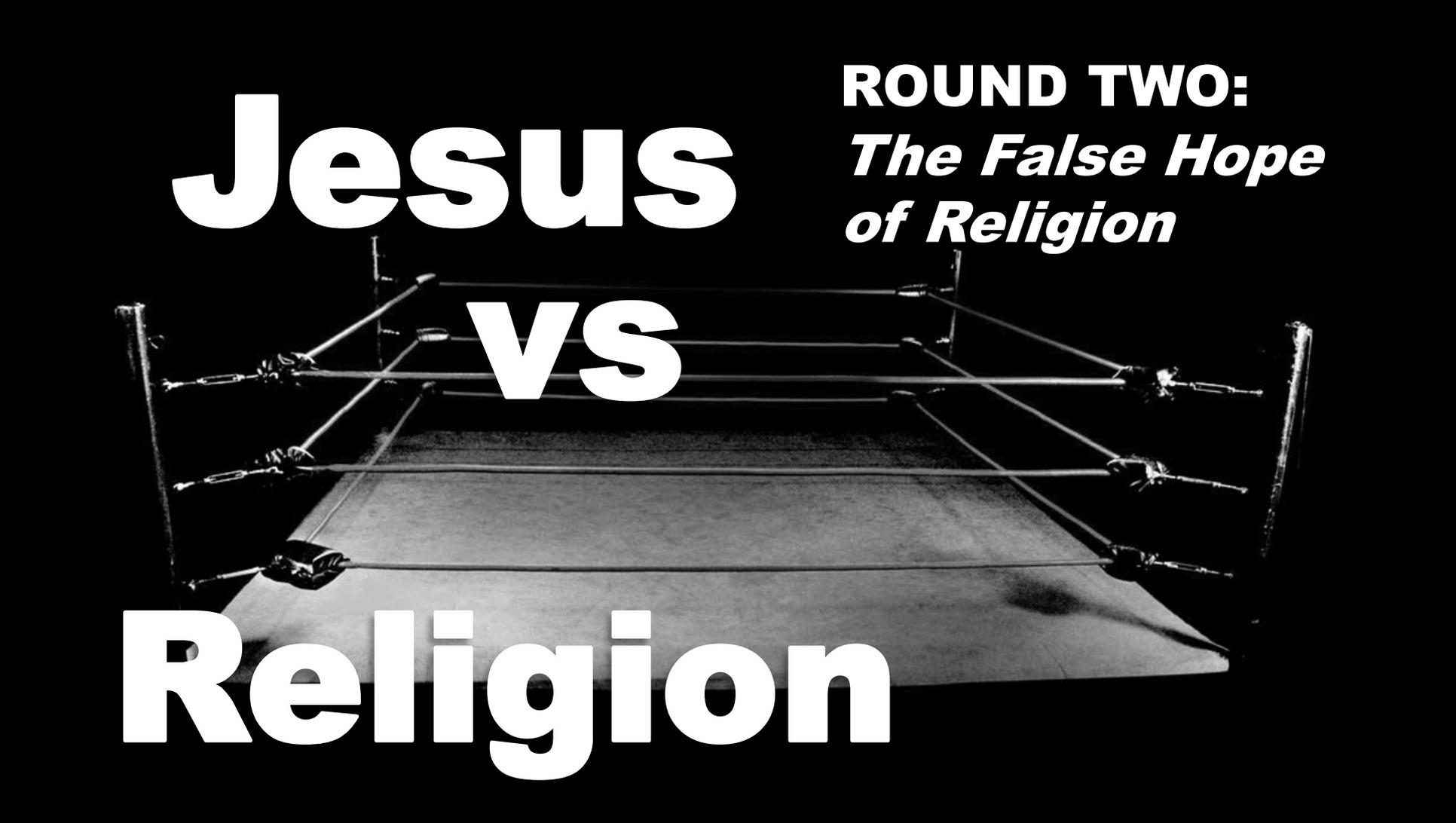
Jesus

vs

Religion

ROUND TWO:

*The Danger of
Being "Right"*



Jesus

ROUND TWO:

*The False Hope
of Religion*

vs

Religion

Luke 12:13-21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

Luke 12:13-21

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Luke 12:13-21

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’”

Luke 12:13-21

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” ’

Luke 12:13-21

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

Luke 12:13-21

²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Today's Message:

The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

The heckler speaks

Luke 12:13

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

Luke 12:1, 8-12

¹Meanwhile, when a crowd of many thousands had gathered, so that they were trampling on one another, Jesus began to speak first to his disciples...

⁸“I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. ⁹But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. ¹⁰And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. ¹¹“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, ¹²for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

The heckler speaks

What's going on here?

Luke 12:13

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

Jesus' AWESOME response

Luke 12:14-15

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Jesus' AWESOME response

Do you think this is my job?

Luke 12:14

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Jesus' AWESOME response

Watch out!!

Luke 12:15a

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Jesus' AWESOME response

Watch out!!

Luke 11:39

³⁹ Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

Jesus' AWESOME response

Watch out!!

Luke 11:39

³⁹ Then the Lord said to him, “Now then, you Pharisees clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness.

Luke 12:1b

“Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

Jesus' AWESOME response

Jesus, are you a 'Merican?

Luke 12:15b

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

Let me tell you a little story...

Luke 12:16a

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’”

Let me tell you a little story...
The really great agribusiness problem!

Luke 12:16b-17

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’”

Let me tell you a little story...

The farmer's solution

Luke 12:18

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” ’

Let me tell you a little story...

The speech to his soul

Luke 12:19

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” ’

Let me tell you a little story...

The “twist” to the story

Luke 12:20

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

What is a fool?

What is a fool?

Psalm 14:1

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

What is a fool?

Psalm 14:1

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."

Proverbs 26:11

As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.

Let me tell you a little story...

Why is this guy a fool?

Luke 12:20

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

The “punch line”

Luke 12:21

²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

The “punch line”

Rich toward Possessions ≠ Rich toward Soul

The “punch line”

Rich toward Possessions ≠ Rich toward Soul

Rich toward God = Rich toward Soul

The “punch line”

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Question - What's filling you?

B. Q. #1

Why is GREED the “soul killer”?

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Why is GREED the “soul killer”?

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Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

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Why is GREED the “soul killer”?

Romans 1:25

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.

B. Q. #2

*So, how are we to be
material people,
in a material world,
with material needs?*

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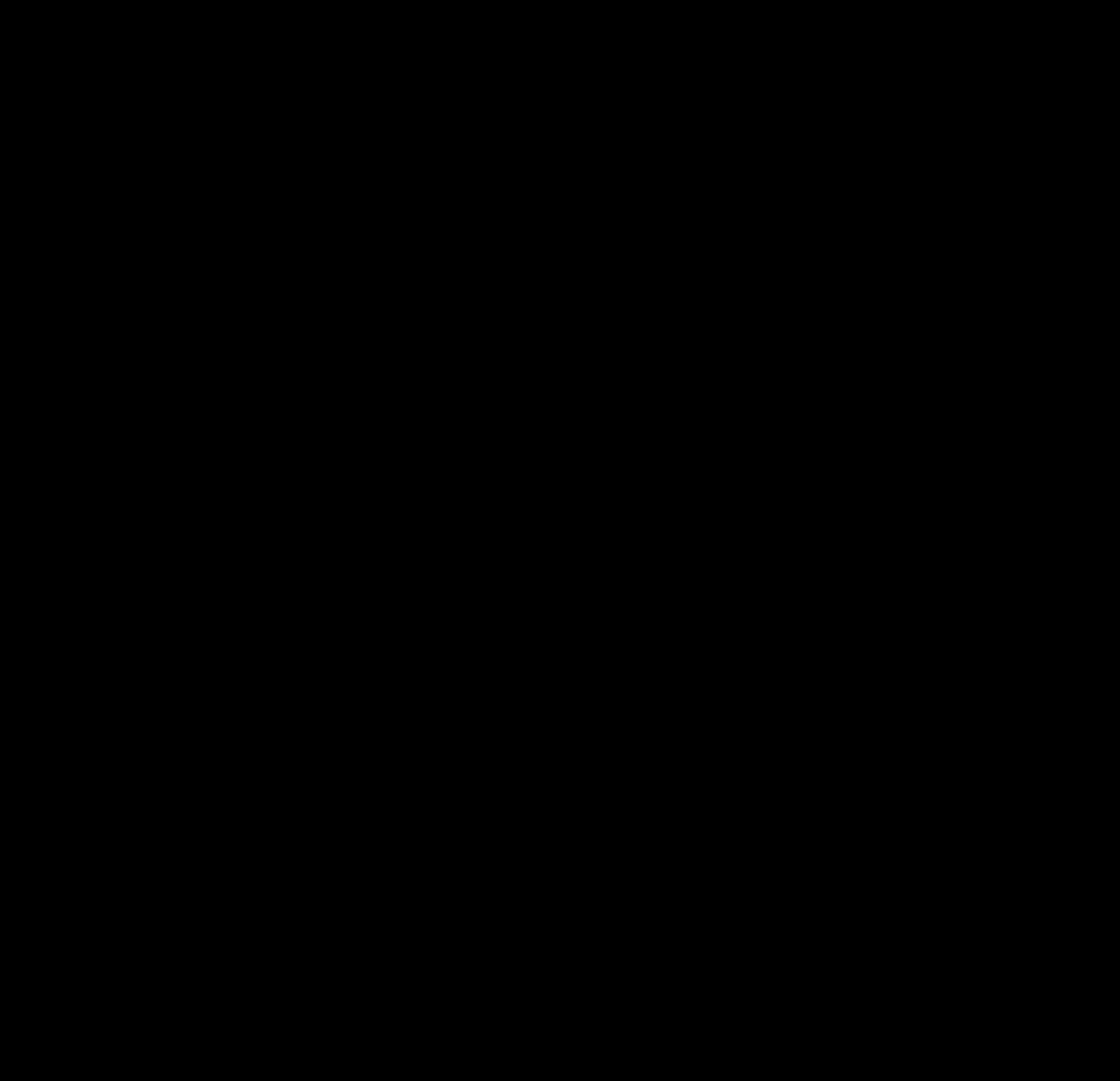
1 Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19

¹¹But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses...

1 Timothy 6:6-12, 17-19

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.





The principle runs through all life from top to bottom. Give up yourself, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and the death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fibre of your being, and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.

We are afraid that Heaven is a bribe, and that if we make it our goal we shall no longer be disinterested. It is not so. Heaven offers nothing that a mercenary soul can desire. It is safe to tell the pure in heart that they shall see God, for only the pure in heart want to. There are rewards that do not sully motives. A man's love for a woman is not mercenary because he wants to marry her, nor his love for poetry mercenary because he wants to read it, nor his love of exercise less disinterested because he wants to run and leap and walk. Love, by its very nature, seeks to enjoy its object.

~ C.S. Lewis, *Problem of Pain* (New York: Macmillan, 1969), p. 145.



Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink, sex, and ambition, when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.

~ C.S. Lewis, "Weight of Glory" in *Weight of Glory and Other Addresses* (New York: Touchstone, 1996), pp. 1-2.