

NOTES ON TODAY'S TOPIC.

Luke 12:13-34: Cash and the Christian (1) Gratitude



12 v1 – be on your guard against yeast of Pharisees – hypocrisy

12 v15 – be on your guard against greed

Greed: “excessive desire to acquire or possess more than one needs”
ie we're greedy because we've stopped trusting God for our daily needs

2 routes to greed: seeking security and seeking status in what we have

– Example of greed: the rich farmer

2 routes to contentment: finding security and finding status in what God gives

– Examples of contentment: the ravens and lilies

Cash and the Christian. Lesson 1: Grow in gratitude

– See what we have to be grateful for: Life more than possessions v15

– See who we have to be grateful to: Be rich towards God v21

It's a heart issue V34

1 Tim 6:6-10

next week: Cash and the Christian (2) Generosity – preview in v32...

Questions for further thought in Life Groups this week.

1. What forms of security and status apart from God do people chase after?
2. Why does attempting to gain security and status apart from God lead to greed?
3. Jesus gives 3 principles in v15, 21 and 34. How did Jesus live these principles in practice?
4. Look again at 1 Tim 6: 6-10. What is the danger of greed?
5. How much of your prayer is given to gratitude, praise and appreciation of who God is and what he has done for you? How specific and personal are you in thanking God?
6. Do a topical search on BibleGateway.com on the words 'gratitude' and 'thanksgiving'. What do you learn?
7. What difference will it make to your attitude to money and possessions when you know more clearly and are more personally grateful for the riches of God's provision?
8. How could you develop the daily practice of gratitude in your life?