

The Baptism of the Lord ~ Sunday, January 10, 2016
“Winning The Game of Life ~ The Object of the Game”
Luke 12:13-21

The world thinks that to be a winner in life, a person must accomplish what it takes to win at the board Game of Life: _____, _____, _____, _____.

The world tells us that the winners are those with:

It’s not so much the _____ that are important when looking at someone’s life, but rather the _____ of their life—the impact—large or small—that they’ve made on the world around them

In the kingdom of God _____ is more important than _____.

In the kingdom of God, _____ is more important than _____.

Instead of making the legal judgement the man was hoping for, Jesus makes a _____.

“Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

Instead of telling the brothers what to do, Jesus tells _____.

“I came to hate all my hard work here on earth, for I must leave to others everything I have earned. And who can tell whether my successors will be wise or foolish? Yet they will control everything I have gained by my skill and hard work under the sun. How meaningless!” (Ecclesiastes 2:18-19)

3 LESSONS ABOUT THE OBJECT OF THE REAL GAME OF LIFE

Lesson #1. The object of the game is not _____.

“Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed...” (Luke 12:15)

Jesus refused to be dragged into the man’s argument with his brother because He knew that this family feud over the inheritance was a _____ of a much greater problem: _____.

Pleo-nexia = greed =

“Let there be no sexual immorality, impurity, or greed among you. Such sins have no place among God’s people.” (Ephesians 5:3)

“People who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.” (1 Tim 6:9)

There’s nothing wrong with money in itself, what Paul’s saying is that money doesn’t _____ us and can _____ our lives. The pursuit of the material often leads to:

Paul says the pursuit of the material brings heartache and leads to emptiness because you can never have _____.

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| <p>What Matters Most</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Harvest a large crop2. Build bigger barns3. Achieve financial security4. Eat5. Drink6. Be Merry7. Remember not to die |
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Perhaps the only similarity between real life and the Game of Life is that at the end of the game:

“For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain that we will take nothing out.” (1Timothy 6:7)

Lesson #2. The object of the game is not _____.

“...for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

Aphron = fool =

It’s ironic that the kind of person Jesus calls a fool is the person who is often called _____ by the world.

He imagined that his eternal _____ could be satisfied with earthly food and drink.

“I’ll sit back and say to myself, ‘Friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!’” (Luke 12:19)

The problem is, riches can’t prepare us to meet the _____ of life—only _____ can. And He’s the only One who can meet all our _____.

“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing...And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need. So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.” (Luke 12:22-23; 29-32)

Instead of chasing after money and possessions—instead of trying to provide for ourselves—Jesus says we need to chase after _____ and _____ in Him.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36)

#3. The object of the game is: _____.

“So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:21)

The object of life, according to Jesus, is breathtakingly simple:

Some examples of being rich towards God:

Being rich toward God means being _____ with what we have and not always wanting more.

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have because God has said never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.” (Heb 13:5)

“Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!” (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

At the end of the day, _____ is all we really need, and if we have Him—we have _____!

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The foolish man in the parable failed to understand the _____ of the game. He failed to understand the difference between the _____ and the _____.



1. What are some ways in which people today (in which you) demonstrate the attitudes and actions of the brothers in our reading or the rich fool in Jesus’ story?
2. How might Jesus’ response to the man’s question about sharing in his brother’s inheritance cause you to reorder your life priorities?
3. The Bible has a lot to say about the nature and meaning of life and how to live it well. Consider the following passage to see how the Bible’s interpretation differs from the world’s (or yours).
 - a. What is the source of everything we are and everything we have in life? (Deut 8:17-18; Psalm 24:1; James 1:17). How does this contradict our human-centred perspective?
 - b. Although we may want our accomplishments to last forever, what does the Bible say happens to them when our life is over? (Job 1:21; Ecclesiastes 2:18-23; 1 John 2:15-17)
 - c. In contrast to the belief that achievement brings contentment, what is the ‘secret’ to being truly content in life? (Matthew 6:19-20; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Hebrews 13:5) What are some ways you can put the biblical principles of contentment into practice in your daily life?
4. What is the goal in your life? Do you think your goal and strategy will truly satisfy you? Why or why not?
5. What impact has this sermon had on your perspective of the temporary vs. the eternal?
6. To what extent have you been seeking to live a life that is rich toward God? How might you want to change in the future?