



Date: November 12, 2023

Title: Saving, Storing, and Dying

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

Introduction to Analog

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else.” Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

Teaching Season

There are several stories that cause one to wonder exactly who Jesus is. While we may be quick to offer an answer, Luke does no such thing. Rather he tells several stories of parables, interactions and miracles all leading up to Jesus asking the question himself: “Who do you say I am?” And we are invited to respond.

Teaching

How much anxiety, worry and fear stem from what we do or do not possess? It’s interesting to note that consternation over possessions is actually what leads Jesus to tell this story. A man wants Jesus to help him get his share of his inheritance. It makes sense, if he’s been cheated out of his share that he would want what’s coming to him.

Jesus, however tells a story that insists true life is not the result of amassing possessions. In this story Jesus masterfully uses the first-person pronoun when speaking of the rich fool. His words are filled with “I”, “my”, “myself” and “me.” His pathetic situation of being wealthy and yet isolated is glaringly obvious to the hearer (see Isaiah 5.8), yet he is blind to his situation.

It’s a hard story to hear because in so many ways it reflects back the desires so many have to attain wealth, amass possessions and get more and more. The message Jesus delivers is straight forward: *The wealth you make in this life will give you all the life you will ever have.* What God wants for us is to be wealthy in our hearts toward him, for then we will enjoy life now and the life to come.

Opening Question for the Group: Start your group discussion with the question below.

1. What Holiday tradition do you most look forward to?

Questions for Discussion or Reflection

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don't feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. Why do you believe greed is spoken of so often in the Bible?
2. Why do so few of us recognize greed in our own lives?
3. What is the motivation that you and others have to accumulate wealth?
4. In what ways may you set the bar too low for your life's purpose?

Spiritual Practice:

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Prayer of Deliverance from False Desires](#)