

"Misplaced Priorities"

Luke 12:13-21

Sermon series; Tell Me a Story, Jesus!

Introduction

- **Illustration; So I came across a few things to DO when the SERMON is BORING. Not all are applicable in our facility but I will share them anyway. (*Now for some of you this will probably be the only time you take notes in church*)**

- *Pass a note to the organist asking whether he/she plays requests.*
- *See if a yawn really is contagious.*
- *Slap your neighbor. See if they turn the other cheek. If not, raise your hand and tell the preacher.*
- *Devise ways of climbing into the balcony without using the stairs.*
- *Listen for your preacher to use a word beginning with 'A' then 'B' and so on through the alphabet.*
- *Sit in the back row and roll a handful of marbles under the pews ahead of you. After the service, credit yourself with 10 points for every marble that made it to the front.*
- *Using church bulletins or visitor cards for raw materials, design, test and modify a collection of paper airplanes.*
- *Start from the back of the church and try to crawl all the way to the front, under the pews, without being noticed.*
- *Raise your hand and ask for permission to go to the rest room.*
- *Chew gum; if the sermon goes on for more than 30 minutes, start blowing bubbles.*
- *Try to indicate to the minister that his fly is undone.*
- *Try drawing your arms up into your sleeves, and turn your shirt around backwards without being noticed.*
- *While people are locating the announced congregational song, step out in the aisle and begin waving your arms as if directing the hymn.*
- *Choose a different song than was announced and begin singing it as loud as you can.*
- **Wow! That's some GOOD STUFF** right there isn't it!

- Now, I **DON'T RECOMMEND** doing **ANY** of these things, but I do often wonder **WHAT** people are **THINKING** about during the **SERMON**.
- Im sure if we **DID** a **POLL** and people were **HONEST** it would be **ALL OVER** the **BOARD**.
- **SOME** would;
 - Honestly be thinking about **HOW** the **MESSAGE** would **APPLY** to their **LIVES**.
 - How they can **SURRENDER** this area to God.
 - How they can **DRAWL CLOSER** to their **CREATOR**.
 - Some I **BELIEVE** are **REALLY** paying attention and truly want their lives **TRANSFORMED**.
 - But unfortunately I also think others are **BORED STIFF**, and thinking, when is this going to be **OVER**.
 - They're thinking about **WHERE** they are going to **EAT** when the **PREACHER** shuts up.
 - They're thinking about what they're going to **DO** this afternoon.
 - What they're **WEEK** looks like.
 - Maybe thinking about a **BIG GAME** they're wanting to **WATCH**.
 - And some might be thinking about the **PROBLEMS** they're going through.
 - So again, my guess is the **ANSWERS** are **ALL** over the board.
 - **WHERE** does **YOUR** mind **GO** during the **SERMON**?
 - You know, as I think about **ALL** the **DIFFERENT** things that people are probably **THINKING** of when I **PREACH**.
 - It would be easy for me to take it **PERSONAL** and be **OFFENDED**.
 - Except for the **FACT**, that people did the **SAME THING** when Jesus **PREACHED**.
 - So **WHO** am I to think it should be **ANY DIFFERENT** for me?

Transition

- **A COUPLE** of weeks ago we started a sermon series "**Tell Me a Story, Jesus!**"
 - And in this series we are looking at some **PARABLES** that Jesus told.

- And remember a **PARABLE** is “*An EARTHLY STORY with a HEAVENLY meaning*”.
- And these **STORIES** will **CHANGE** our **LIVES** if we will;
 - **PAY ATTENTION.**
 - **MEDITATE** on what’s being **SAID.**
 - And **APPLY** the **TRUTHS** to our **LIVES.**
 - Jesus said, “*He who has EARS, let them HEAR!*”
 - Do you have **EARS** to **HEAR**?
 - Do you have a **HEART** that is **RECEPTIVE**?
 - Are you **WANTING** God to **CHANGE** your **LIFE**?
 - I **PRAY** the answer is “**YES**”.
 - Because if it is, God will truly **CHANGE IT!**
- If you have your **BIBLES** open them up to **Luke 12**, the **PARABLE** we are looking at today is found in verses **13-21**.
 - This **STORY** is referred to as the “*The PARABLE of the RICH FOOL*”.
 - However I read this week of someone who referred to this **PARABLE** as “*The FARM that OWNED a FOOL*”, I kinda like that title.
 - Because this **PARABLE** really boils down to; **WHAT or WHO is CONTROLLING your LIFE.**
 - So let me **ASK** you a few **QUESTIONS**;
 - **WHERE** are your **PRIORITIES**?
 - Who or what is **FIRST** in your **LIFE**?
 - Are you **MAJORING** on the **MINOR** things in life, and **MINORING** on the **MAJOR** things?
 - Do you have anything in the **WRONG ORDER**?
 - **IF** you do, I pray this **PARABLE** will help you to **RE-PRIORITIZE** a few things.
 - So you can begin **MAJORING** on the **MAJOR** things, and **MINORING** on the **MINOR** things.
 - **AMEN?!**
- So **IF** you have your **BIBLES** open, lets backtrack a **FEW VERSES** so you can understand **WHY** Jesus **TAUGHT** this **PARABLE.**
- Starting with **VERSE 1**; “*Meanwhile, the crowds grew until thousands were milling about and stepping on each other. Jesus turned first to his disciples and warned them, “Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees—*

their hypocrisy. 2 The time is coming when everything that is covered up will be revealed, and all that is secret will be made known to all. 3 Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear! 4 “Dear friends, don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot do any more to you after that. 5 But I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill you and then throw you into hell.^[a] Yes, he’s the one to fear. 6 “What is the price of five sparrows—two copper coins^[b]? Yet God does not forget a single one of them. 7 And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows. 8 “I tell you the truth, everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man^[c] will also acknowledge in the presence of God’s angels. 9 But anyone who denies me here on earth will be denied before God’s angels. 10 Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. 11 “And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don’t worry about how to defend yourself or what to say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said.”

- So we see here that Jesus is **TEACHING** some pretty **HEAVY STUFF**.
- Stuff they **ALL** needed to be **PAYING ATTENTION** to.
- He **TALKED** about;
 - The **SIN** of **HYPOCRISY**.
 - He said **EVERYTHING** that is done in the **DARK** will be **REVEALED**.
 - That means there is **NOTHING** we can **HIDE** from God.
 - There will be a day all of our **DEEPEST** and **DARKEST SECRETS** will be **REVEALED**.
 - In other words, **QUIT** being a **FAKE**!
 - Listen guys, it’s better to **FESS** up to them **NOW** and **GET RIGHT**, instead of **WAITING** till **LATER** and being **EXPOSED**.
 - Then Jesus talked about how we needed to **FEAR** God more than **MAN**.
 - Because **MAN** can only harm our **PHYSICAL** bodies.
 - But God can **CAST** us into **HELL** for all **ETERNITY**.

- That means we need to **FOLLOW** the **WORD** of God, no **MATTER** what the **MAJORITY** says.
- And sometimes that makes us **UNPOPULAR**.
- But that's ok because we need to be **GOD PLEASERS** and not **MAN PLEASERS**, amen?!
- You see **EVERYBODY** says **AMEN**, until the church **STANDS** on something in an area **YOU** struggle with, then you dig your heels in and **LEAVE MAD**, because we're being **JUDGMENTAL**.
- Isn't that **RIGHT**?!
- Listen guys, I love you but I have **NO DESIRE** to **GROW** a **CROWD** based on being **POPULAR**, I want the **CROWD** to **GROW** because people are **TIRED** of the **STATUS QUO LIFE** and are ready for a **SUPERNATURAL TRANSFORMATION** that only happens through a **SURRENDERED LIFE** to the Lord Jesus!
 - And when we have a **CHURCH** full of people that **THIRST** for **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, then the gates of hell won't **PREVAIL**.
 - **AMEN**?!
- Jesus went on and stressed that whoever **CONFESSES** the Son of Man on **EARTH** will hear Him **CONFESS** them before the **ANGELS** of God.
- He **WARNED** against the **UNPARDONABLE SIN** of **BLASPHEMING** the **HOLY SPIRIT**.
- Jesus was talking about **HEAVEN** and **HELL**!
 - Would you **AGREE** that this is some pretty **HEAVY STUFF**?
 - Would you **AGREE** that its **STUFF** they should be **PAYING ATTENTION** to?
 - Do you think it's stuff **YOU** and I should be **PAYING ATTENTION** as well?
 - Yeah, **ME TOO**.
 - And that brings us to our **FOCAL SCRIPTURES** in verses **13-21**, follow along as I read verse **13** and pull over for a second (***So Jesus just got done sharing this HEAVY stuff***) and verse **13**; *"Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."*
 - **WHAT**?!
 - Where did **THAT** come from?
 - Can someone say "**SQUIRREL**"?
 - **WAS** this dude **PAYING ATTENTION** at **ALL**?

- It makes me **WONDER** if he had gotten a hold of the **LIST** I read earlier about what to do during a “**BORING SERMON**” even though this **WASN’T** a **BORING** sermon.
- **Illustration**; It reminds me of one Wednesday night after church. I got home and Charlie was upset because Sam had been mean and picking on him. And I said, “*Sam, did you **LEARN** anything in **YOUTH GROUP** tonight?*” And not having any idea what Mark preached on, I asked Sam what was the lesson about tonight? And he said with a sober look on his face, “**How to TREAT your SIBLINGS.**” **WOW!** Makes you wonder if he was **PAYING ATTENTION** to that message.
 - Listen guys, Jesus is **TEACHING** some **GOOD** and **HEAVY STUFF** that we **ALL** need to **LEARN**.
 - And **OUT** of the **BLUE** someone chases a squirrel and says, “*Hey, could you **PLEASE** tell my brother to **DIVIDE** our father’s **ESTATE** with me!*”
 - This man wasn’t **PAYING ATTENTION** to the **SERMON** at all and all, because if he was, **NONE** of this **STUFF** would have **MATTERED**.
 - I would say this fella had some “**MISPLACED PRIORITIES**”, wouldn’t you?
 - Let’s pick it back up in **VERSE 14**; “*¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” ¹⁵ Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.” ¹⁶ Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷ **He said to himself**, ‘What should **I** do? **I** don’t have room for all **my** crops.’ ¹⁸ Then he said, ‘**I** know! **I’ll** tear down **my** barns and build bigger ones. Then **I’ll** have room enough to store all **my** wheat and other goods. ¹⁹ And **I’ll** sit back and say to **myself**, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’ ²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You **FOOL!** You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ ²¹ “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”*

Message

- So before **JUMPING** into the **OUTLINE**, I want to quickly **POINT** out a few things that I believe will **HELP** us to understand **WHY** Jesus taught this **PARABLE**.
 - First off, lets **LOOK** at the **GUY** that **ASKED** the **QUESTION**.
 - You see, there was really **NO NEED** for the question to even be asked, **BECAUSE**;
 - The **JUDAIC LAW** was very **CLEAR** when it came to **DIVIDING** a **FATHERS ESTATE**.
 - And we even learned this last week when Kevin preached on the "**PRODIGAL SON**".
 - It was **WELL KNOWN** that the **ELDER** son go **2/3's** of the **ESTATE** and the **YOUNGER** received **1/3**.
 - Unless there were **SEVERAL SONS** and in this case the **1/3** was **DIVIDED** up among **ALL** of them.
 - So again, there was really **NO QUESTION** about **WHO** got **WHAT**.
 - The **REAL PROBLEM** was the **YOUNGER BROTHER** wasn't **SATISFIED** with his **SHARE**.
 - He had a **PASSION** for **POSSESSIONS** and **WANTED MORE!**
 - And was **HOPING** Jesus could **HELP** him out a little.
 - But **INSTEAD**, he got **SOMETHING** he didn't **BARGAIN** for.
 - Jesus saw that his **WORDS** actually **REVEALED** his **HEART**.
 - And it **REVEALED** that the man had a **GREED PROBLEM**.
 - His **PRIORITIES** were **WRONG**.
 - And Jesus **SAID**; You better "*Beware! Guard against every kind of **GREED**. Life is not measured by how much you own.*"
 - That is a little **CONTRARY** to the popular **BUMPER** sticker, "*Whoever dies with the most toys wins!*" **RIGHT?!**
 - Listen guys, the **PROBLEM** with **GREED** is, **NOTHING** is **EVER** enough.
 - **Illustration**; **Rockefeller** was at one point the world's richest man and first ever American billionaire. Considering he was a billionaire in the early 1900's he is still considered as the richest person in modern history. When a reporter **asked** him, "*How **much** money is **enough**?*" He responded, "***Just a little bit more.***"
 - Greed **ALWAYS WANTS** a little **MORE**.

- **Illustration**; It's kind of like another farmer I heard about that said, *"I don't want much, **JUST** the land that **JOINS** mine."*
- **NOTHING** is ever enough, so Jesus shared the **PARABLE** of the **RICH FARMER**.
 - Now the next thing I want us to **UNDERSTAND** before moving on is the **FACT** that;
 - Jesus wasn't speaking against **FARMING** as a **PROFESSION**.
 - Jesus wasn't speaking **AGAINST** this **FARMER** for being **RICH**.
 - He wasn't speaking **AGAINST** him having **MORE** than **ENOUGH**.
 - Jesus wasn't speaking **AGAINST** this farmer being a **HARD WORKER**.
 - He wasn't speaking **AGAINST** him putting a **LITTLE** back.
 - He wasn't even speaking **AGAINST** the **FARMER** building more **BARNs**.
 - Jesus was using this **PARABLE** to **WARN** us about having **MISPLACED PRIORITIES** in our **LIFE**.
- So let's **LOOK** at a **FEW** of the **MISPLACED PRIORITIES** of this **FARMER**.
 - The **FIRST** one in your **OUTLINE**, the **FARMER** had a....

I. Misplaced CONFIDENCE.

- When you **READ** this story, it's **PRETTY OBVIOUS** who this guy's **CONFIDENCE** is in.
 - It's in "**HIMSELF**".
 - Did you **CATCH** that?
 - He said "**I**" six times, and then he used the word "**MY**" or "**MINE**" four times in just a few **VERSES**.
 - "**I**" know what "**I**" do.
 - "**I**" will tear down.
 - "**I**" will build.
 - Then "**I**" have room.
 - "**I**" sit back.
 - My **CROPS**.
 - My **BARNs**.
 - My **GRAINS**.

- My **GOODS**.
- **I, I, I, I....MINE, MINE, MINE....**
 - This dude was the perfect **EXAMPLE** of the person who says “***I WORKED HARD for it***”, “***I DESERVE it***”, “***I OWE it to MYSELF***”.
 - You ever **HEARD** someone say that before?
 - Or maybe **YOU** have said that before?
 - You a **SELF MADE MAN** and you **DID** it on your **OWN**!
 - And you can do **WHATEVER** you **WANT** with it!
 - Listen guys, being full of **PRIDE** is a **DANGEROUS** place to be.
 - Because when our **CONFIDENCE** is in **OURSELVES**, we **CONVINCE** ourselves that **WE** have what we **HAVE** because of what “**WE**” have done.
 - And we have **NO REGARD** for God.
 - And yet the **BIBLE** says in;
 - **Psalm 24:1**; “*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him!*”
 - **Psalm 104:24**; “*O LORD, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.*”
 - **Psalm 50:10**; “*For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.*”
 - **Deuteronomy 10:14** says; “*Look, the highest heavens and the earth and everything in it all belong to the Lord your God.*”
 - Listen friend, this is a **VERY IMPORTANT** lesson to learn right here and it will **CHANGE** your life if it would ever **SINK** in.
 - God **OWNS** it **ALL**!
 - **EVERYTHING** belongs to **HIM**!
 - And if for **SOME REASON** He **ALLOWS** us to **USE** any of it, He still **REMAINS** the **OWNER** of it.
 - **Illustration**; Our oldest son Trevor owns several DVD’s and his siblings always wants to borrow some of them to watch. However, he is often reluctant about loaning them out, because they have been known not to take very good care of them. So if he does let them take them, he makes

sure they know they will be held **ACCOUNTABLE** to him on how they took care of them.

- Listen guys, there **WILL** be a **DAY** that we will give an **ACCOUNT** to God for how we **USED** what He has **GIVEN** us.
- That **MEANS**;
 - Our **LIVES** are **NOT** our **OWN**, we've been **BOUGHT** with a **PRICE**, and we **BELONG** to the Lord Jesus, and we will answer to Him how we **LIVED** it.
 - It's not a matter of how **YOU** want to **LIVE** it, if your a **CHILD** of God, it's about how He wants you to **LIVE** it.
 - If He has given you **HEALTH**, you will give an **ACCOUNT** to Him for **HOW** you **MANAGED** your **BODY**.
 - If He has given you **INTELLIGENCE**, He will demand an account of **HOW** you used it for His **PURPOSE**.
 - If He has blessed you with a **JOB**, you will give an **ACCOUNT** to Him on **HOW** you performed it.
 - If He entrusts **MATERIAL GOODS** and **MONEY** to you, then someday you will **ANSWER** for **HOW** you **INVESTED** it in light of **ETERNITY**.
 - If He has **BLESSED** you with a **SPOUSE** or with **CHILDREN**, you will give Him an **ACCOUNT** of how you **INFLUENCED** them.
 - You will will also give an **ACCOUNT** of how you used the **GIFTS** and **ABILITIES** He gave you.
 - We will give an account of the **MINISTRY** He entrusted to us.
 - You will give an account of how you treated God's **CHURCH**.
 - Kevin, Mark and I will give an account for how we **PASTORED** His **CHURCH**, because it's **NOT OUR CHURCH** it's His.
 - Listen guys, the very **BREATH** we **BREATHE** belongs to God! (***INHALE, EXHALE... God OWNS that BREATH, and He can GIVE it or TAKE IT AWAY***)
 - **EVERYTHING IS HIS!** (*Say that with me*) **EVERYTHING IS HIS!** (*Repeat*) **EVERYTHING IS HIS!**

- The **SOONER** we realize that, the **BETTER** off we will be.
- The **RICH FARMER** in this **PARABLE** didn't **GET** that.
 - And his **MISPLACED CONFIDENCE** caused him to be;
 - **GREEDY.**
 - **PRIDEFUL.**
 - **ARROGANT.**
 - And **SELFISH.**
- The **FARMER** had some **MISPLACED PRIORITIES** that consisted of;
 - A misplaced **CONFIDENCE.**
 - Which **LED** to....

II. Misplaced DESIRES.

- He **NEVER ONCE** took into **CONSIDERATION** what God might have **WANTED** to do with **ALL HIS SURPLUS**.
 - Don't you **THINK** with a **BUMPER CROP** like this he could have said;
 - **THANK YOU** God for **BLESSING** me!
 - I **PRAISE** you God for what **YOU** have **DONE**!
 - God **WHAT** do **YOU** want me to **DO** with **YOUR ABUNDANCE**?!
 - Well, he didn't **RECOGNIZE** God at all for his **BLESSINGS** and the **ONLY** thing he was **CONCERNED** about was **HIMSELF**.
 - He tells us his **DESIRES** and **PLANS** in **verses 18-19**; *"Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. 19 And I'll sit back and say to myself, 'My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!'"*
 - Talk about some **MISPLACED DESIRES**.
 - I can just picture this man **POINTING** at himself in the **MIRROR**, patting himself on the **BACK** and **ARROGANTLY** saying; **"YOUR AWESOME, my friend! You've DONE it ALL! Now lets take it EASY and PARTY it up!"**
 - You see this **FARMER** made a **HUGE MISTAKE** that many of us do as well, and that is the **THOUGHT** that **TRUE HAPPINESS** comes from **TAKING CARE** of **NUMBER ONE**. (**RIGHT? You just do WHAT makes you HAPPY!**)

- We think that accumulating **MORE** and **MORE** stuff will bring **LASTING SATISFACTION** to our **LIFE**.
- So we **CHASE** after all these **EMPTY PLANS, DESIRES** and **DREAMS**.
- **ONLY** to finally get it and **REALIZE** that;
 - The new **CAR**.
 - The new **BOAT**.
 - The new **HOUSE**.
 - The new **TOY**.
 - The new **RELATIONSHIP**.
 - The new **CAREER**.
 - That **PARTY**.
 - Or that **EVENT**.
- Didn't do a **STINKING THING** for us.
- You see King Solomon had this kind of **STINKIN THINKIN** also and **WRITES** about it in **Ecclesiastes 2:1-11** and says; *"I said to myself, (Here's another guy that consulted himself INSTEAD of God and it got him into TROUBLE also) "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless. 2 So I said, "Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?" 3 After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world. 4 I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. 6 I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. 7 I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. 8 I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! 9 So I became greater than all who had lived in*

*Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me.
10 Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no
pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a
reward for all my labors.*

- So this was a guy who by all appearances **HAD IT ALL!**
 - And in **VERSE 11** he tells us the **CONCLUSION** he came to; “*But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so **meaningless** (Everyone say MEANINGLESS) —like **chasing the wind**. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.*”
- Wow, you **EVER FEEL LIKE** your **CHASING** the **WIND**?
- Listen friends, **LASTING HAPPINESS**;
 - Is **NOT FOUND** in **THINGS**.
 - **MONEY** can’t buy a sense of **USEFULNESS**.
 - It can’t buy a **CLEAR CONSCIENCE**.
 - And it **CERTAINLY** won’t buy us **CONTENTMENT** with **GOD** or **MAN**.
- You see, this **FARMER** had it **BACKWARDS**.
 - He thought **GETTING MORE** would make him **HAPPY**.
 - But for someone who has the **ETERNAL JOY** of Jesus in their **HEARTS**, it’s actually just the **OPPOSITE**.
 - There is **MORE JOY** in **GIVING** than **RECEIVING**.
 - And for you **GIVERS**, you **KNOW** that to be **TRUE**.
 - **TITHING** your first **10% BRINGS JOY**.
 - **GIVING** to **OTHERS**, brings **JOY**.
 - **Illustration**; You know, over the years in ministry Rhonda and I have been blessed by many of gifts given to us. Some small and some big, and no matter what the size of the gift it is always hard to receive them. In fact some of them we have even tried to talk people out of and they have straight up told us, “***God wanted me to give you this, so don’t ruin my blessing by taking away the JOY I am having by GIVING you this.***”
 - There is **JOY** in **GIVING**.
 - **Illustration**; John Wesley, a great theologian from the 1700’s had a rule in life that went like this, “***EARN all you can, SAVE all you can, GIVE all you can.***” When he was at Oxford he had an income of **30 lbs** a year. He lived on **28 lbs** and gave **2 lbs** away.

When his income increased to **60, 90, 120 lbs** a year he still lived on **28 lbs** and gave the rest away.

- Wesley had figured out that there was **JOY** in **GIVING**.
- But this **FOOLISH** farmer was not like Wesley, he was in fact just the **OPPOSITE**.
- Wesley's motto was "**GET all you CAN, and GIVE all you CAN.**"
- But this farmer's was "**GET all you CAN, and CAN all you GET!**"
- Stock it away in a jar somewhere for my own future use and **FORGET** about sharing with others in need.
 - Just think **HOW** God could have **USED** him, if his **DESIRES** would have been in the things of **GOD** instead of **HIS OWN**.
 - Just **THINK** of the;
 - People he could have **BLESSED**.
 - The **GOOD** he **COULD HAVE** done.
 - Or the **MINISTRIES** he could have **FUNDED** with his **ABUNDANCE**.
 - How about **YOU**, where is your **PRIORITIES** when it comes to your **DESIRES**?
 - Is it **ALL** about **YOU**?
 - Are you **CHASING** after some **THINGS**?
 - Do you think your going to be **HAPPIER** with the **MORE STUFF** you **ACCUMULATE**?
 - **Illustration**; Two men were at the funeral of a **WEALTHY** man. The first man whispered to the second, "**How much MONEY did he LEAVE?**" The second man replied, "**He LEFT it ALL!**"
 - You can't take it with you friend, the **QUESTION** is, are you using **WHAT** He has **GIVEN** you for **HIS GLORY** or **YOURS**?
- The farmer had **MISPLACED PRIORITIES**;
 - He had a **MISPLACED CONFIDENCE**.
 - Which led to **MISPLACED DESIRES**.
 - **BECAUSE** number three, he had a.....

III. Misplaced PERSPECTIVE.

- **The FARMER in this story had NO PERSPECTIVE of TIME and ETERNITY.**

- Because his **SELFISHNESS** didn't allow him to.
- **Illustration**; There is a story told of a Russian peasant who was told that he could have all the land he could walk around in the time between **sunup** and **sundown**. So, with the rising of the sun the peasant began walking as fast as he could. By mid-morning it seemed that he was moving too slowly. So he increased his pace and didn't even stop for lunch. As the afternoon heat beat down on him he hurried his pace even more. He felt that he simply must circle more and more land. By late afternoon he was soaked with sweat from head to toe. He was exhausted. He had walked around a huge section, but still he yearned for more. So, he began to run. Breathlessly he pushed himself into a fatigue he had never known. His heart beat wildly. Then sundown was only a few minutes away so he ran faster. But, as he raced toward his point of beginning, a point that would make him the largest landholder in the district, **he fell to the ground dead.**
- There's an old cliché about the man who **LOSES** his **HEALTH** trying to accumulate **WEALTH**, and then **LOSES** his **WEALTH** trying to get back his **HEALTH**.
 - Listen friend, **NONE** of your **STUFF** is going to **HELP** you the moment you take your **LAST BREATH** and stand before God Almighty.
 - **Proverbs 11:4** says; "***Your riches won't help you on judgement day. Only righteousness counts then.***" (The Living Bible)
 - And that's the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** we will have through a **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** with Christ Jesus.
 - You see the **FARMER** had the **SAME PROBLEM** so many of us have.
 - The **MISPLACED PERSPECTIVE** of **TIME**.
 - And that is the devil's **GREATEST ARSENALS**.
 - **Illustration**; There is an old story of three apprentice devils who were sent from hell to earth to serve their time. Before they left they told Satan what they proposed to do to draw mankind from God. One said, I will tell men that there is **NO GOD**. But Satan said, That will not do because in their heart of hearts they know there is a God. The second devil said, "***Well, I will tell men, that here is NO HELL.***" And Satan said, "***That is still more hopeless***

for by living in their fallen world they have experienced the remorse of hell."Then the third devil said, "*I will tell them, that they have **PLENTY of TIME.***" And said Satan, "***GO tell them THAT and we will ruin them by the millions.***"

- **Illustration**; At this time 18 Year's ago, Rhonda and I got saved. And when we walked in those doors she was pregnant with Gracy. Man that felt like yesterday. **At that time it felt like we would have all the time in the world to spend with Gracy** and this summer **we will go broke paying for her senior pictures** as she begins her last year at high school.....**WOW!** Where has the **TIME** gone.
- **TIME** is the **ONLY** thing we can **SPEND**, and **NOT MAKE MORE** of.
- And the **PROBLEM** for **MOST** of us is, we don't **THINK** about it, till it's **GONE**.
- We **ALWAYS** think we have **MORE TIME**, don't we?!
 - I'll do **THIS** or **THAT**, tomorrow.
 - I'll **SPEND** more time with my **FAMILY TOMORROW**.
 - I'll be a better **DAD**, tomorrow.
 - I'll start **HELPING** people in **NEED** tomorrow.
 - And the **BIGGEST MISTAKE** we make is the lie, that we will **GET** things **RIGHT** with God **TOMORROW**.
 - The **FARMER** thought that he had **NOTHING** but **TIME**, therefore **ETERNITY** wasn't anything to **WORRY** about.
 - And Jesus said in **VERSES 20-21**; "*You **FOOL!** You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?*"
21 "*Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.*"
 - **Illustration**; Kevin has said this **BEFORE** and he said it again the other night when we went to the **MENS PRISON**, and it goes so well with this message; he said, "***The FLOWERS in the flower shop today, could be on ANY of our CASKETS tomorrow.***"
 - Listen friend, **LIFE** is but for a **MOMENT** but **ETERNITY** is **FOREVER**.
 - **WHERE** will you **SPEND** it?
 - Jesus said to His **DISCIPLES** in **Matthew 16:24-26**; "*If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way,*

take up your cross, and follow me. 25 If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. 26 And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?[] Is anything worth more than your soul?"

- It would be **FOOLISH** to lose your **SOUL** for something that doesn't **LAST**.
- **DON'T** you **THINK**?!

Closing (PRAISE TEAM COME)

- Don't **STRESS** out about the **OUTLINE**, Im not done, I want to give you 3 things in **CLOSING**.

Don't be a **FOOL**, Jesus said, **BUILD** a **RICH RELATIONSHIP** with God.

- And we **DO THAT** by;

1. Surrender **CONTROL** to Jesus.

- Come to a **POINT** in your **LIFE** that you **RAISE** up your **HANDS** and say;
 - I'm **DONE**.
 - I can't **DO THIS** on my **OWN** anymore.
 - I have **NO IDEA** what you would **WANT** with my **LIFE**, but it's **YOURS!**
 - Let go of the **DEATH GRIP** you have on your ways, and **SURRENDER CONTROL**.

2. **TRUST** His ways.

- Listen guys, His **WAYS** are **NOT OUR** ways.
 - That means we ain't going to **UNDERSTAND** everything.
 - But we keep **LEARNING**.
 - We keep **GROWING**.
 - We keep **STEPPING** in **FAITH**.

3. Develop a **KINGDOM** focus.

- This **WORLD** is **NOT** our **HOME**, so don't **LIVE** for it, and don't get **ATTACHED** to it.

- **Illustration**; There is a story of a sailor who was shipwrecked on one of the South Sea islands. When the natives found him they lifted him to their shoulders and marched triumphantly into their village. The sailor feared that he was to be their main dish for dinner that night. But to his astonishment they put him on a throne, put a crown on his head, and proclaimed him as their king. He was the absolute ruler. Every native was his servant. He greatly enjoyed his new station in life, but after a while he began to wonder about it all. He thought this must be too good to be true. So, he discreetly asked some questions, and he found that it was their custom once each year to make some man a king, a king for a year. He also learned that at the end of his year, the king was banished to a particular island where he would starve to death. Of course the sailor didn't like that too much, but being a resourceful man, he put his mind to work and he hit upon a marvelous solution. Since he was king, his orders were obeyed so he put the natives to building boats. When they had enough boats, he started transplanting fruit trees to the island where he was to be sent. He had the carpenters go there and build comfortable houses. He set the farmers to clearing the land and planting crops. So when his kingship was over he had a place of abundance to which to go.
- Listen guys, **YOU** and **I** need to think of our **LIFE** here on **EARTH** in this **SAME** way;
 - In comparison to **ETERNITY**, our **TIME** here is **BRIEF** no matter how **LONG** we **LIVE**.
 - And in this **BRIEF TIME** we have, we **BETTER** be **PREPARING** for **ETERNITY**.
 - Are you **READY** for **ETERNITY**?
 - Or has some **STUFF** gotten in the **WAY**?
 - Do you have some **MISPLACED PRIORITIES** in your life?
 - Today is the **DAY**, to get them **RIGHT**!
 - Don't put it off, because you **DON'T KNOW** what tomorrow will bring.