



OPENING UP



In the History Channel show "Alone," contestants are given essential clothing (shirt, jacket, etc.) and then allowed to choose ten other items to survive in the arctic for up to a year. If you could only pick ten items, besides clothes, to "survive" your current daily life, what would they be?

TEXT



Living Rich | Luke 12:13-34

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'"

²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

²² And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. ³⁰ For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

³² "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: Living Simply Makes God our Treasure.

1. Don't Be Anxious (vv. 22 – 28)
2. Seek God's Kingdom (vv. 29 - 31)
3. Give Generously (vv. 32 - 34)



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- How do you see the cultural narrative of more money + more stuff = happiness reinforced to you? What examples can you give? What are ways you are prone to embrace that narrative?
- How would you define “The Good Life?” How do you see it described and expressed in Scripture?
- We defined The Habit of Simplicity as **“a single-hearted focus upon God and His kingdom, which results in an outward lifestyle of modesty” & minimalism¹**. Simplicity, therefore, has both an inward component and an outward component. Why are the inward and outward components essential for practicing the habit? In what ways might you be prone to prioritize one of these components over the other?
- What things do you feel anxious about? How might living simply address those fears or anxieties?
- What other things compete for your devotion or focus in life? What needs to change to help you embrace a single-hearted focus on God’s Kingdom?

¹ Adapted from Foster, Richard J., and Julia L. Roller. *Simplicity*. In *A Year with God: Living out the Spiritual Disciplines*. (New York: HarperOne, 2009).

CHALLENGE



William Macdonald once noted: “This radical financial policy is based on the underlying principle that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. If your money is in a safe-deposit box, then your heart and desire are also there. If your treasures are in heaven, your interests will be centered there. This teaching forces us to decide whether Jesus meant what He said. If He did, then we face the question, ‘What are we going to do with our earthly treasures?’ If He didn’t, then we face the question, ‘What are we going to do with our Bible?’” Discuss together what it would look like to truly invest our treasures in heaven. How might that change the way we think or our finances and our “stuff?”

One of the great ways that we can combat making “stuff” our treasure is by following Jesus’ call to “Sell your possession and give to the needy” (Luke 12:33). As a community, discuss things in your life that you might be able to sell or get rid of to help meet the needs of others. Then, identify someone who is in need and develop a plan to meet that need together.

PRAYER



Lord God, Thank you that you are a God that satisfies our hearts and that you provide exactly what we need. We confess that you are the greatest treasure that can be found and that the good life is found only found in you. We are sorry for the way we look to other things to fill the void in our lives that only you can fill. We’re sorry for the way we too often can hoard for ourselves instead of living generously towards others. We’re thankful that you are a God that lived generously towards us and that in Christ, we experience the generous Father that you are! Help us, oh God, to seek your Kingdom first. Help us to trust in your provision deeply that the anxiety of the world might not grip our hearts. Ultimately, Help our hearts to treasure you above all things found on this earth. We love you, Lord. We ask for your help in the name of Jesus. Amen!