

MAIN POINT

Focusing on the temporary things of this world will cause us to miss what is truly important.

INTRODUCTION

Do you collect anything? What is the most extreme length to which you have gone to get one of your collectibles? What does your collection say about your interests and passions?

In what area of your life is materialism most likely to surface?

As we look at some of the Bible's teaching on wealth, we will see how our financial decisions reveal the condition of our hearts. Sometimes our attention shifts and our energy is focused on things that distract us from what truly matters. The Bible shows us that seeking wealth for personal gain demonstrates we are failing at being rich. The way to be rich is to be generous.

DISCUSSION

> **READ LUKE 12:13-21; 31-34.**

What similarities do you see between this man and the consumer culture we live in?

Why do you think Jesus said that we must be on guard against greed?

How was this man failing at being rich?

Has greed ever snuck up on you? If so, how? Why is that an easy thing to have happen?

Why were the rich man's actions in the story so foolish? Does that mean we should never save for the future? Why or why not?

How might examining how we spend our money help us gauge our spiritual health?

What would it take for you to feel rich? How might realizing you are rich change your personal definition of generosity?

How can you refocus your money and resources toward storing up heavenly treasure?

Who do you know at our church who models a focus on lasting treasures? What about that person stands out? What trait would you most like to imitate?

Why are we often poor judges of our own hearts?

How might seeking out brothers or sisters who will be honest with us help us take steps toward honoring God with our resources?

APPLICATION

What are some practical ways you might begin making your money a tool for God to use instead of something you look to for contentment and fulfillment?