Insights from Luke

#47 – "Wisdom about Riches" – Luke 12:13-20

I. Introduction

  A. Wealth is often viewed as the sum of all things.

    1. Prosperity is value/moral neutral.

    2. Prosperity can be alluring and facilitate a worldly view of life.
      a. Eighties rock group ABBA – "Money, Money, Money"

    3. How much wealth is enough?

    4. Encounter with a person who has confidence in his b_____ of m_____.

  B. The antidote for this wrong view of life is found in today's text.

    1. The central figure of today's text wants his share of inheritance.

II. Exposition

  A. Luke 12:13

    1. Jesus is asked to adjudicate, but refuses.

    2. The man's request shows that he did not track with Jesus' instruction.

    3. Jesus is not Judge Wapner.

  B. Luke 12:14

    1. Israel had a system in place to deal with civil matters such as the man's request. – Num. 27:1-11; Deut. 21:15-17

  C. Luke 12:15

    1. A classic teaching moment.

    2. "Beware" – "Recognize this"

    3. "Every form of greed."
      a. Inordinate desire for R_____.

    4. Wealth is <u>not</u> the measure of all things.

  D. Luke 12:16-19 (The Parable)

    1. Money magazine's Man of the Year.

    2. Needed extra space for his goods.

    3. No thankfulness.

    4. Self-absorbed.

      a. Note first person words – "I" – "Me" – "My"

  E. Luke 12:20-21

    1. Internal conversation.

    2. Focus was upon the world – Psalm 49:10

    3. Self-absorption can become a problem for the Christian, too.

    4. The greater the prosperity, the greater the responsibility.

    5. "Rich toward God."

      a. Spiritual life flow can become restricted by prosperity in the life of a believer as blood flow becomes restricted in a person who has atherosclerosis.

III. Points for Reflection.

  A. This parable is teaching us that a retirement package can became a ticket to hedonism.

  B. To live life without thought of God is to live the life of a fool.

  C. Contentment is the key to reigning in all kinds of covetousness.

  D. We all have a tendency to dominate the board.

  E. It all goes back into the box.