

The Problem with Stuff

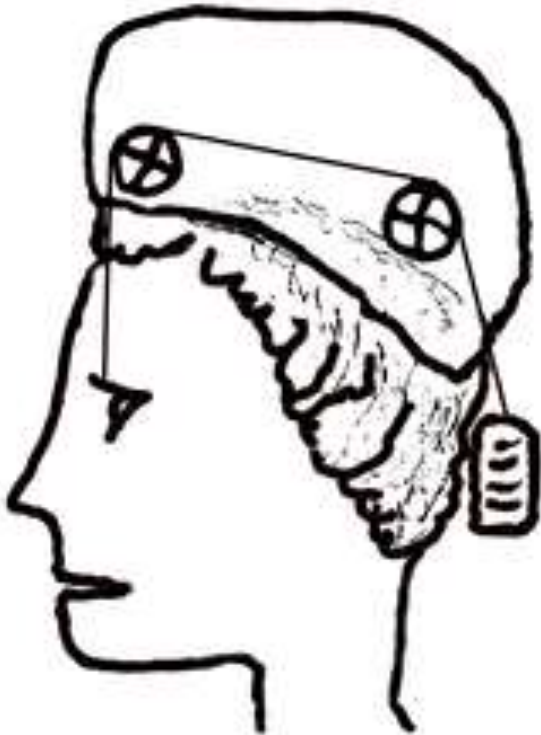
Luke 12:13-34



Someone in the crowd said to him,
"Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

You haven't been listening to a thing I said!

Present in body Preoccupied with stuff



"Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."
Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter
between you?"



It's nothing to do with me.

Proverbs 26:17

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions

THE KEY ISSUE

Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions



"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed;
life does not consist in an abundance of possessions

BUT we think it does!

The Advertiser's Dream
You're a target

What do you
WANT?
NEED?



We need to learn to think differently.

And he told them this parable

Why did Jesus use parables?



The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, '**What shall I do?** I have no place to store **my** crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. **I** will tear down **my** barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store **my** surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years.

Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."



He's got it made.

This is your life ?

In control?
(I did it my way)

Think again !

But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.



It's a stupid game to play and one you can't win or repeat

His stores are in the wrong place

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

A wise (repeated) instruction for Jesus' disciples



Life is not just biological

Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And **how much more valuable you are than birds!** Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

Let's go twitching

How do dumb creatures manage?

What should we stop doing :-
sowing, reaping, or worrying?



Why is worrying no good?

Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you--you of little faith!

Real bling!

If God cares for the
natural, temporary
then

Think it over!
Get some faith
involved!



And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things,

The way of the world



and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

There's a better choice.

Father first – necessities follow from our generous Father



Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.



To get lasting treasure
Use the stuff you have for good

What is your Treasure ?

