

## WHAT GIVES YOUR LIFE VALUE?

Scene 1: Jesus heals a mute person. The Pharisees accuse Jesus of working with demons. Jesus exposes the Pharisees in front of everyone – Luke 11:14-44

Scene 2: Then a lawyer (expert in the Hebrew Bible) tries to confront Jesus, and Jesus exposes the entire group – Luke 11:45-52

Scene 3: The scribes and Pharisees are furious at Jesus, and then a large crowd gathers – Luke 11:53-12:1

Scene 4: Jesus preaches a sermon on hypocrisy, hell, and the unpardonable sin – Luke 12:2-12

Scene 5: Someone randomly interrupts Jesus: *“Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”<sup>14</sup> But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?”<sup>15</sup> 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.”* – Luke 12:13-15

Scene 6: Jesus tells a story about possessions and value – Luke 12:16-21

- A man did well – 12:16 *And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully,*
- A man had no goal beyond himself – 12:18-19 *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**.<sup>19</sup> And **I will** say to **my soul**, “**Soul, you** have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ’*

- He never consulted God.
- He had the “I deserve this” mentality.
- God speaks – 12:20 *But God said to him, ‘**Fool!** This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’*

Psalm 39:6b *man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!*

- Jesus summarizes – 12:21 *So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”*

### Questions to consider

- 1) If God exists, do I regularly consult with Him about my financial decisions?
- 2) What do my finances say about my faith?
- 3) Where is my heart right now?
- 4) What’s my “Win” column?

“The reason why both in public and private affairs, many things occur contrary to our expectation, because we have not been diligent about spiritual things in the first place, and secondarily about the secular, but have inverted the order” – John Chrysostom<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Steven A. McKinion, *Life and Practice in the Early Church* (New York: New York University Press, 2001), 61.