



# Your Stuff is not Your Life

Luke 12:13-20

**Listen!** “The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation.” Henry David Thoreau

- **Tension:** There is a difference between being alive and having real life. So how do we get “real life”—the inner sense of joy, wellbeing, and fulfillment?

**Jesus told a parable about money that was actually about “real life.”**

The catalyzing incident:

The motivation for the demand:

The caution:

The illustrating parable:

**The Core Truth:** Real life is not found in selfish \_\_\_\_\_ --but in a rich relationship with \_\_\_\_\_.

**Making a “soul-level” choice about the pursuit of real life:**

**A “soul-level choice” is comparable to our “childhood commitments.”**

**Option A:** Store up treasures for \_\_\_\_\_. How does this look—how is this worked out in life?

**Option B:** Be rich toward \_\_\_\_\_. How does this look—how is this worked out in life?

**Being rich toward \_\_\_\_\_ is both a craft and a determination—really it is an obsession. Pursuing God is one of the few areas where obsessiveness is good:**

- First, the *decision*—a soul-level decision.
- Second, the *plan*—specific actions.
- Third, the *heart*—understanding and responding to God from the inside, the heart.

# “Walking Papers”

Practical helps for walking the Christian walk each day this week.

**The Core Truth:** Real life is not found in selfish materialism—but in a rich relationship with God.

- **Sunday:** How would you explain the difference between “being alive” and having “real life?”
- **Monday:** Have you experienced times of “real life” before and why do you think those times happened for you?
- **Tuesday:** Do you see any “forms of greed” in your life and will you confess them to God?
- **Wednesday:** Do you see ways in your life that you are “building bigger barns for yourself” and are you willing to make substantive changes with them?
- **Thursday:** How would you explain a “soul-level” decision to someone else?
- **Friday:** What one thing are you willing to do in order to be more “rich toward God?”
- **Saturday—Eight “rubber-meets-the-road” practical financial actions:**
  - Find a gracious, truthful, concerned financial accountability partner.
  - Balance your checkbook regularly.
  - “Know well the condition of your flocks” without obsessing on that. In other words, keep track of where your finances, assets, and debts stand without worrying and looking at them obsessively.
  - Be honest and thorough on your taxes.
  - Develop a long-term financial plan with your spouse if you are married.
  - Buy some term life insurance.
  - Simplify your life—from the inside out: First, cultivate an inner sense of contentment and then work on your possessions out of this inner sense of contentment—give it away, sell it, throw it away, organize it.
  - Help the poor—intentionally, regularly, systematically, willingly, and compassionately. Befriend a poor person or poor family and help them without developing in them a mentality of dependence on you.

**Note for Connection Groups:** The full study guide for small group and personal study is available at: [www.cypressbible.org](http://www.cypressbible.org) and then click on “Get Connected” and the link is on that page.