

## Sermon for August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Eleventh Sunday of Pentecost, Luke 12:13-21

BLESSINGS TO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD THE FATHER, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN.

This morning we are going to begin with something that **Katie** Williams showed me this week. It is a **video** from U-tube. You will have to **listen** closely because this is called the “One Minute Sermon” so as you may expect to give a **whole** sermon in **one** minute it is going to be spoken rather quickly as a **matter** of the fact, this is more like **rap** than speech. (Steve if you please.)

**Stuff!!** Our lives are **all** about stuff. **Stuff** is everywhere. I have driven by houses with 3 car garages that are **full of stuff**. The self storage-industry is a **booming** business in this country because people have so much stuff they have to rent **someplace else** to put it. Garage sales, yard sales, estate sales, storage wars. **Stuff, stuff, and more stuff.** There are even **television** programs about people who have the psychological disorder of **hording** that causes one to collect **so** much “stuff” they cannot even get around their house. Don’t get me wrong. I am just as guilty of collecting **stuff** as anyone else. I have a house which is also full of stuff. **Stuff—we have so much stuff.**

Talk about stuff. **School** is beginning in the near future. Here are a few ads that I pulled out of the newspaper from Thursday for **some** of the things the kids **cannot** live without. (read off some of the ads.) Stores that want you to **come and buy** more stuff. They are even open **extra hours** so you can come and get their **stuff** with sales on the **stuff** to boot!!!!

Here is a bit of an article that I read which I found interesting. It is from the *Center for Christian Ethics at Baylor University*, (quote) “A European observer summed up with a **certain** amazement the insatiable drive for consumption he witnessed during a visit to the United States; he writes, ‘Americans **cleave** to the things of this world as if assured that they will **never** die, and yet are in such a **rush** to snatch **anything** that comes within their reach, as if expecting to somehow **stop** living before they have relished them. They clutch **everything** but hold **nothing** fast, and so **lose** grip as they hurry after some **new** delight.’” (end quote) This was written by a Frenchman who visited America in the **1830’s**. We have not come **too far** in 180 years—have we?????

*‘To be a survivor in this life—don’t buy the stuff they’ve been selling you. It’s all designed to fill your head and waste your life till your dead. Here’s the bottom line—give your life to God while there’s still time.’* Isn’t that what we heard on the video? It is very true. **Give your life to God while there’s still time.**

Now, **what about the parable** that Jesus told in our gospel reading for this morning? First of all, Jesus **warned** the crowd who was with him, “*Take care! Be on your guard against **all kinds** of greed; for one’s life does **not** consist in the abundance of possessions.*” There was a rich man whose land produced abundantly. He did not even have enough room for all the crops his land had yielded so he thought he would pull down his barns and build bigger ones. He could store **everything** in there—all his **grain**—all his **goods**. *Then* he would be happy. *Then* he could be content because all his “**stuff**” would be in these big **huge barns**—all safe and sound. He would be set for **many** years. He would be **very satisfied** with himself because he would have had **ample goods** laid up for many years to come—**no worries**. He was going to relax, eat, drink, and be merry. He thought he was **set for life** with this abundance he had stored up in his big new barns.

How about us-**kids and adults** alike? When we are kids it is important to have **certain** brand clothes, shop at **certain** stores, have the **latest and greatest** phones and electronics, and when we are old enough to drive many times it is important for teenagers to have a **nice car** drive around and **impress** their friends.

When we are adults we want to have a **good** job, we would like **plenty** of money so we **don't have to worry** about our bills, we would like a **nice** house to live in, a **nice** car to drive around in, and some **money in the bank** for retirement.

Much like the rich landowner in the parable we would like some **safety and security** in our lives as well. But **listen** to what Jesus says next in our reading, *“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. (Which meant he was going to die.) And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So it is with those who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich towards God.”*

**There it is!!!** Like it said in the video: *‘To be a survivor in this life—don't buy the stuff they've been selling you. It's all designed to fill your head and waste your life till your dead. Here's the bottom line—give your life to God while there's still time.’* For you see, this rich landowner in Jesus' parable did not give **one** thought to where **all** his abundance came from. He did not **look** toward the heavens and say “thanks to God”, there was **no prayer** of thanksgiving, **no glory** be to the Father. He did not **praise God** at all for his abundance and the good harvest which caused him to have to build more barns to store it all. We have **no** indication that he gave **any** thought of giving anything to the needy. He just wanted to keep it **all** for himself. In his mind he was now set for many years.

But that is **not how it is** when we know God and the **love** He has for us. **Everything** we have in this world: all **our blessings**, the **food** we have to eat, the **air** we breathe, the **sun** which warms us, the **shelter** we have over our heads, the **people** we have in our lives who love us, and the list goes on and on—it is **all from God**.

You see, **that** was the problem with the wealthy landowner—he did not have a **clue or acknowledge** where all this goodness came from. The problem was **not** the abundance that he had because abundance in and of itself is not a bad thing. It is when we **do not acknowledge** where the abundance comes from and when we **do not focus** on what is truly important in the world—which is *our relationship with God*—because **one day** each and every one of us will come the point in our lives where all **the ‘stuff’** of this world will **no** longer continue to matter.

Once again, as **each and every** week, our lives are **all** about our relationship with God. It is how we **relate** to God and the **blessings** we have been given. All week the **youth** in VBS have been learning to ‘**stand strong**’ with God. Standing strong by **knowing** we have God’s **love**, standing strong with our **family and friends**, standing strong through **prayer**, standing strong by **trusting** God, and standing strong by **knowing our bible**. **That** is what God has to offer us in our lives—it is the **security** of knowing that His promises are **never** ending. They are

**not** like material possessions which can be here today and gone tomorrow. God's promises are **for all of us, for all time**.

One more time: like the video said, "To be a survivor in this life—don't buy the stuff they've been selling you. It's all designed to fill your head and waste your life till your dead. Here's the bottom line—give your life to God while there's still time." AMEN.