



**NEVER ENOUGH**  
Enough – Part 1  
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“Mild mannered students became Hulk-a-maniacs, clawing to get all the nuts.” - Julian Edney

“...greed – for lack of a better word – is good. Greed is right. Greed works.” – Gordon Gecko

“You can't be too greedy.” - Donald Trump, The Art of the Deal

“We try to define greed out of existence. We tell ourselves we really don't love money. We might romance it, ruminate on it, worry that we might lose it, but we really don't love it.” - Erwin Lutzer

***1. UNDERSTANDING GREED***

- ❑ The Originating Sin



Radix (the root)  
Omnium (of all)  
Malorum (evils)  
Avaritia (avarice)

*For where you find envy ... there you find disorder and every evil practice. James 3.16*

❑ A sin that affects more than just you

"Greed is a sin directly against one's neighbor, since one man cannot over-abound in external riches, without another man lacking them." - Thomas Aquinas

"We cannot, consistent with brotherly love, sell our goods below the market price; we cannot study to ruin our neighbor's trade, in order to advance our own; much less can we entice away or receive any of his servants or workmen whom he has need of. None can gain by swallowing up his neighbor's substance, without gaining the damnation of hell!" - John Wesley

"Neither should we have an attitude that it is okay for me to have my way, if you get less than what you want or you need. At the core of this principle is the belief there is enough pie for everybody. We are not going to be happy if we win at somebody else's expense." - Stephen Covey



Nehemiah 5, Isaiah 58, James 5

- ❑ Greed is an attempt to replace God

*For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ... Ephesians 5.5*

*Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. Colossians 3.5*

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, Who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 1 Timothy 6.17*

- ❑ Greed promises happiness and kills joy

*People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Timothy 6.9-10*

"Greed is a bottomless pit which exhausts the person in an endless effort to satisfy the need without ever reaching satisfaction." - Erich Fromm

- ❑ Greed is not just a money thing

*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.*  
Luke 12.15

## ***2. WHEN THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE PROBLEM***

*Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 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."*  
Luke 12.13-15

*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.*  
Luke 12.15



"[Greed is] an excessive longing or craving for such things as food, drink, wealth or possessions. It's a craving beyond reason that reveals a crass sort of selfishness."

- George Arthur Buttrick, The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible

### ***3. WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR BLESSINGS?***

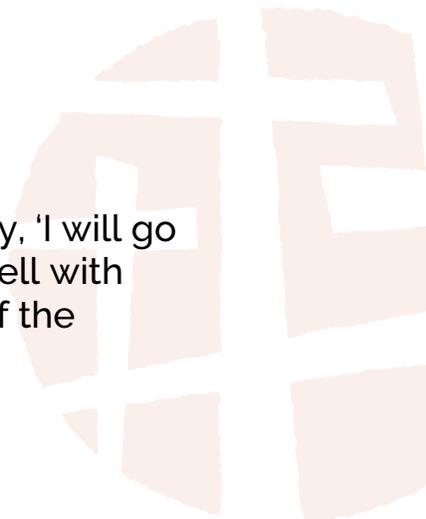
*And he told them this parable: The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" Luke 12.16-19*

"Whatever is your position and whatever are your gifts, remember that they are not yours, but they are lent you from on high! No one has anything of their own except their sins." - Charles H. Spurgeon, The Two Talents

"He thought to himself..."

Eleven times he uses the first-person "I" and "my."

"...when the community is in trouble, let not a man say, 'I will go to my house and I will eat and drink and all will be well with me.' ...But rather a man should share in the distress of the community." - The Talmud



"Foolishness consists in thinking that responsibilities ends with securing one's own economic future." – Dr. Klyne Snodgrass

*Is the rich guy a bad guy?*

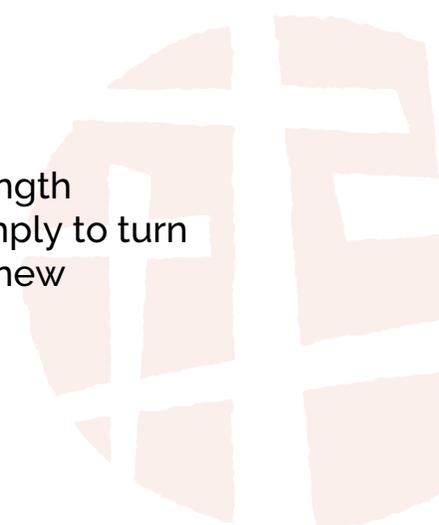
"The parable of the barn builder is an expose of greed: using what we have to get more instead of giving away more; using our position or goods as a means for getting impersonal power rather than giving away love." – Eugene Peterson

#### **4. MAKING A LIVING IS NOT MAKING A LIFE**

*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.*  
Luke 12.20-21

*That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.* Luke 12.21 (The Message)

"...the expulsive power of a new affection is the strength needed to overcome a sinful behavior. We don't simply to turn away from greed. Instead it needs replacement - a new affection." - Thomas Chalmers



"Vices are cured by their contrary." – R.R. Reno

"Just the very act of letting go of money, or some other treasure, does something within us. It destroys the demon greed." – Richard Foster

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were to mark the things in your life you can't live without, what would they be?
2. What would it take for you to feel comfortable giving those things away?
3. As a small groups read tJesus' brief conversation found in Luke 12:13-15, and answer these three questions:
  - 1). What does this passage mean to me personally?
  - 2). What does this passage say about the world I live in?
  - 3). What about this passage is weird, cool, or confusing?

