



## “THE MEASURE OF A LIFE!!”

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- Our **mission** is to *Reach* people in the Name of Jesus; *Disciple* people in the Way of Jesus; *Empower* people in the Service of Jesus.
  - Our **method** is to ensure that everything we do is *Christ Centered; Word Focused; & Ministry Minded*
  - Our **message** is *the Gospel*.
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### Luke 12:13-15 The Message (MSG)

*“<sup>13</sup> Someone out of the crowd said, “Teacher, order my brother to give me a fair share of the family inheritance.” <sup>14</sup> He replied, “Mister, what makes you think it’s any of my business to be a judge or mediator for you?” <sup>15</sup> Speaking to the people, he went on, “Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot.””*

## Prayer

**“Father open my eyes, so I can see Your truth. Open my ears, so I can hear Your Voice. Open my mind, so I can understand Your Word. And open my heart, so I may receive all that You have for me, that is for me. In Jesus Name, AMEN!”**

## Thought:

Although, I only referenced Vv.13-15 above, I invite you to please read Vv.1-40 along with this short devotional message.

Stewardship is about much more than money. In fact, money is really a very small part of our stewardship. Stewardship is about how we live our lives.

Christian stewardship is the management of your life for God. How then do you measure the success of your stewardship? To answer that question, you must be able to correctly identify the true worth of your life, discerning between temporal and eternal values.

**All of life must rest upon a foundation of confidence in God and His Word! The will and purpose of God must be given a greater value than the things of this life!**

Thus, our beliefs will shape our values.

**A. Success is not measured by the esteem of others.** (Luke 12:1-2)

The word "hypocrite" means to "wear a mask", to play a role, to be false. It refers to the practice of hiding your real motives and character behind a mask of insincerity. The religious hypocrite plays his/her role to convince others that he/she is something more than he/she really is.

It is pretended devotion. It is premeditated deception. The folly of hypocrisy is that sooner or later, the mask is coming off. **We (as individuals, as a nation, as a globe) may be successful at deceiving others, but we never deceive God!**

Whether through the circumstances of life, or at His seat of justice, God will expose the true nature of the hypocrite.

The point I'm trying to make is that it is not important what others esteem you to be, but what God knows you to be!

**B. Success is not Measured by our possessions.** (Luke 12:14-21)

Covetousness is: A craving for something we think will make life more satisfying.

The heart reaching out for something which God for the present has denied. Covetousness comes from the belief that having more makes life more satisfying, and the person more valuable.

The foolishness of covetousness is: Possessions are only for time - your soul is eternal. Success is not measured by what you have now, but what endures for eternity.

**C. Success is not measured by the things we lack.** (Luke 12:22-30)

Worry is the mental distress caused by uncertainty. ("Will I have a job tomorrow?" "Will I be able to pay the bills?" "Will I catch and/or be infected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic?" "Will we ever have our shelter-in-place home quarantine lifted?")

Anxiety arises from a lack of faith in the promises of God and lack of dependence upon the provision of God.

The futility of worry is that security is not found in the substance of life (food, clothing, etc.), but the Source of life. The Almighty God.

**D. The success of a life is measured by its relationship to eternity.** (Luke 12:31-40)

The priority of a hypocrite is appearances!

The priority of the covetous person is possessions!

The priority of the anxious person is security!

The priority of a Christian steward is eternity!

**Prayer of reflection you might pray this week: "Dear God, I know that my value, worth and beauty rests in You and upon a foundation of my confidence in You and Your Word! I know that Your will and purpose must be given a greater value than the things of this life, but sometimes that's not where I put my energy or thoughts. Lord, give me wisdom to end the pursuit of things that have little eternal value. Help me run after what changes me from the inside out and not give up the fight. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate name of Jesus, Amen!"**

May God continue to bless and protect you always!

*Pastor King*