



# RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

## THE WEEKLY BRICK

**January 24, 2010.**

*As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. - 1 Peter 2:4-5*

### **Preventing Ready, Fire, Aim: walking by faith with Godly goals**

**Jan. 24th: “Priorities: the right and wrong way**

*Luke 12:16-21*

*The goals you set (your priorities) are determined by that what is most important in your life (your values). You make decisions every day. Consciously or unconsciously you're choosing one thing above another every day. It's better to be conscious about the use of your gifts for God!*

#### **A. THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO DEVELOP GOALS:**

##### **1. A DEFINITE DECISION.**

You choose to set goals. This is a wise Godly decision on your part. You choose, having evaluated the situation, what ought to be number one in your life.

##### **2. PRESSURE BY CIRCUMSTANCES OR OTHERS TO CHOOSE A CERTAIN GOAL OR PRIORITY.**

##### **3. BY DRIFTING.**

We drift into habits and before long those habits become a way of life for us. And, as a result, not by choosing, not by the pressure of others, but simply because we've not chosen we drift into habits and attitudes that determine our priorities.

##### **4. THE KEY: DEFINE YOUR VALUES AND HAVE SOME DISCIPLINE.**

#### **B. HOW CAN I TELL IF MY GOALS ARE OFF?**

**1. YOU PROVIDE EVERYTHING FOR YOURSELF AND NOTHING FOR OTHERS.** The man in the lesson is concerned about his barns, his wealth, his soul, his time, his future and his pleasure.

If you could be really honest what would you say is the number one interest in your life? BE honest.

In 2010 what do you intend to spend most of your time doing?

As you look back over the last year, what did you spend most of your time doing?

What did you give most of your thinking to?

**2. THERE'S A PENALTY.** If you misplace your priorities it can cost you:

- relationships
- spouse
- profit
- fellowship with Christ

*Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

**3. I THINK TO MYSELF.** The rich man thought to himself. He reasoned within himself. Reasoning within one's self will usually end up with the result of misplaced priorities. What we need is not to reason within ourselves, but to reason with God's viewpoint. If you don't have God's viewpoint your priorities will be out of order. The question is not what shall I do, but what shall I do according to God's purpose for me. **“Lord what would you have me to do?”**

# WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

## Monday, January 25th Read Luke 12: 13-21

The person of wealth is often self-sufficient, but there are some things one needs to fear.

1. A request for Jesus to give a judicial decision (v.13-14).
2. Fear: life does not consist in things (v.15-19).
3. Fear: the soul may be required and demanded tonight (v.20).
4. Fear: wealth is not a permanent possession—someone else gets it (v.20-21).

**Read 12:13-14.** There was a request for Jesus to give a judicial decision. A man was having a dispute with his brother over the inheritance of his father's estate. The law gave two-thirds to the older son and one third to the younger son. The man felt he was not getting his legal share, so he appealed to Jesus for help in getting his share. It was a common practice for Rabbis to settle legal disputes. Note five things.

1. **The man was in the congregation listening to Jesus preach.** There is a strong possibility that the man was even a follower of Jesus. This is seen in that Jesus had apparently paused for a brief rest between sermons, and the man knew Jesus well enough to approach Him about the matter in the midst of a huge crowd.
2. **What the man wanted was significant.** He wanted material wealth, money, and property. Note: he appealed to Jesus for help in getting what had probably been *stolen from him*. More than likely the property was rightfully his anyway. It would have been an act of justice to straighten out the inheritance.
3. **Jesus refused rather sternly.** He forcefully addressed the man as a stranger: "Man." He treats the man as one who is alien to the Lord and His purpose on earth. Jesus refused to become involved in worldly affairs, in settling property and money disputes.
4. **The man exposed a serious flaw in his spiritual life.** Jesus had just preached a message on trusting God for the necessities of life, for God cares and will provide. Apparently, the man *had not heard the message*. He was bodily present, but he was too preoccupied with the thoughts of property and money to really hear the Word and receive the message.

**Reflect:** Listening to the Word being preached does not mean that we "hear the Word," nor that we learn from it. The Word, salvation, and spiritual maturity do not *rub off on a wandering mind or on a worldly life*.

5. **The contrast between the mind and attitude of the man and of Jesus is significant.** The man's mind was set on the things of the earth and the world, on property and money, wealth and selfishness. The Lord's mind was set on the higher and more noble, on salvation and life, on heaven and eternity. The mission of Jesus was not to give man property, but to give man life, both abundant and eternal. Property is nothing without life.

## Tuesday, January 26th Read Luke 12: 15-19

Life does not consist in things. Note four points.

1. The charge of Jesus was strong. There was a double warning: "*take heed, beware.*" The warning was to be given close attention. The word "beware" (*phulassethe*) means to guard oneself from some enemy.
2. The big sin of man is *covetousness*.

**Covetousness** (*pleonexia*): a craving, a desire for more. It is greediness, a dissatisfaction with what is enough. It includes the cravings for both material things and fleshly indulgence. It is desiring what belongs to others; snatching at something that belongs to others; a love of having, a cry of *give me, give me* (cp. 2 Peter 2:14).

- ⇒ It is a lust so deep within a man that he finds his happiness in things instead of in God.
- ⇒ It is a covetousness so deep that it desires the power that things bring more than the things themselves.
- ⇒ It is an intense appetite for gain; a passion for the pleasure that things can bring. It goes beyond the pleasure of possessing things for their own sakes.

**Matthew 6:19-21** "*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*"

**Matthew 6:24** "*No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*"

**Matthew 16:26** *What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?*

**Philippians 3:18-19** *For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. <sup>19</sup> Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.*

This is the big sin of the world—desiring more and more. However, a man's happiness and comfort, soul and body do not

depend upon what he has; *many poor people* are happy and comfortable with healthy souls and bodies. Life does not consist in possessions—a beautiful home, the latest clothes, a new car, property, money, wealth.

**Wednesday, January 27th** Read Luke 12: 15-19

**3. The big “I” shows that the covetous man is aggressively self-centered.** Note how Jesus gets the fact of covetousness across. He shares a parable about a man who was also *aggressively self-centered*. In just three short verses describing his thoughts, the rich man in the parable said, “I” six times and “my” five times. The man’s attention was solely upon himself. Now note the parable.

- The man was blessed materially, tremendously blessed, but he did not *thank God* for his blessing.
- The man called the fruits of the ground and the possessions he had, “*my fruit*” and “*my goods*” (Luke 12:17-18).
- The man called his soul, “*my soul*.” There is no indication he had given his soul to God.
- He became *puffed up*, prideful with what he had done. He began to think of *bigger and bigger*, of *I and I*, of *my and my*.

**4. The big mistake is selfishness, self-indulgence, and extravagant living.** Note the sole purpose of man is to be at ease, to have plenty to eat and drink, and to enjoy life as he wishes. Note several facts about the man in the parable.

- He thought only of self, of living at ease and in comfort, of indulging self and being as extravagant as he wished. He gave no thought to helping others. He forgot that he lived in a needy world that was lost and dying.
- He put off living and enjoying life until he got his barns built. The idea is that he was a *workaholic*, who was consumed with the passion to get what he wanted. (How many are just like him when they want something!)
- Now note the most shocking point: he only *thought* these things. He never did them; they were only thoughts of his heart.

**Deuteronomy 8:11-14** <sup>11</sup> *Be careful that you do not forget the Lord your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day.* <sup>12</sup> *Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down,* <sup>13</sup> *and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied,* <sup>14</sup> *then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

**Proverbs 11:24** *One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*

**Matthew 4:19** “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

**Thursday, January 28th** Read Luke 12: 20

Note several things.

**1. It was God who now spoke.** It was God who knew the thoughts of the man. It was God who knew the man was to die that very night. The man did not know it, nor did anyone else.

**2. The man was to die that night.** Everyone has his night (day) to die, and this was his night.

**3. The man’s “soul” was required.** God required and demanded it. His soul was not going to cease existing. It was to exist in another world. Existence was not over for the man. The man’s soul was simply to be in another world, in the spiritual dimension of existence.

**4. The man was called a “fool” by God.** He had lived as a fool, lived entirely for himself. He had refused to think about the truth, about the uncertainty of life. There was a good possibility that he might not live as long as he wished to live.

**Luke 12:39-40** *But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.* <sup>40</sup> *You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.*”

**1 Peter 4:7** *The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.*

**Jude 1:13** *They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever.*

**Revelation 21:8** *But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars--their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.*”

**Psalms 37:2** *for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.*

**Proverbs 5:21-23** *For a man’s ways are in full view of the Lord, and he examines all his paths.* <sup>22</sup> *The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.* <sup>23</sup> *He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly.*

Wealth is not a permanent possession; someone else gets it. The man left every penny behind. He took nothing with him. Now note why. This is a point seldom thought about. *He could take nothing with him because the strength, the energy, the power, the life of his body had left.* The Bible reveals...

- that the life of a man’s body is his spirit.
- that the spirit lives forever.

Note: when the spirit left, the man’s strength and energy and power were gone. His body had to lie down. Note something else: *his spirit was spiritual*, of another dimension of being. It belonged to another world, another life. Therefore, all *material* possessions had to be left behind.

Friday, January 29th Read Luke 12: 20-21

**God wants to guide you and show you direction!**

*Psalm 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

*Psalm 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.*

*Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
6 in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

**God guides us very clearly.**

*Acts 9:5-6 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

*Acts 9:10-17 10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. 11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." 13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." 17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

**How?**

**1. God guides us by His Word. This is primary! First!**

- **God uses Scripture to speak to us**

**2. God guides us by the Holy Spirit.**

*Moves, prods, pricks our conscience, gives us peace, opens our eyes and ears to God's leading*

**3. God sometimes uses dreams, thoughts, and visions sometimes.**

- **More often, it is the indwelling Holy Spirit guiding us.**

**John 16:13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

**1 Corinthians 2:12** We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

**4. Some Keys:**

- Watch out** for fleshly desires
  - Ask God if it fits His plan for your life
  - Ask God if the timing is right?
- Watch out** for the counsel of others, even friends
  - Talk to people who understand the mind of God
- Watch out** for impatience
- Watch out** for doubting God
  - Thinking you don't deserve God's best
- Watch out** for pressure
  - External pressure from friends, family, etc.
  - Internal pressure
  - What are the steps to godly decisions?
- Cleanse your heart**--Ask God what His will is.

**1 John 5:14-15** This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us--whatever we ask--we know that we have what we asked of him.

**Mark 11:24** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

**g. Wait**

**Isaiah 64:4** Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on

