

EMPLOYMENT AS A DIVINE INSTITUTION (#2)

[GREED VERSES GOD'S GRACE]

[Mini-Series on Employment #3]

(Gen.2:8, 15; 3:17-19)

Before Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan resigned, he warned that corporate greed was a major threat to our economical stability. Greenspan said, "An infectious greed seemed to grip much of our business community."

Enron, Global Crossing, World Com, Martha Stewart, Silicon Valley's eBay and Yahoo were just the tip of blatant greed in USA. It is in both USA business and government.

Jesus gave a parable on greed in our lesson text. The Greek word for greed is pleonexia and is a compound Greek word made up of (pleon) [more] and (echo) [to have]. It is always used in a bad sense of an insatiable lust to have more.

This lesson will study five aspects of Greed Verses God's Grace.

- 1. Greed is the insatiable lust of the heart that makes a person discontent until he has more, no matter how much he has (Mark 7:14-23/ 7:1-8, 17, 18-23). It is found in the Parable of the Rich Fool in our lesson text (Luke 12:13-21).**

(Mark 7:21-23) "For from within, **out of the heart of men**, proceed the evil thoughts, fornication, thefts, murders, adulteries, **deeds of coveting (pleonexia)** and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. All these things proceed from within **and defile the man.**"

What the disciples called a parable in Mark was actually a paradox (Mark 7:17). A paradox is a "statement that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet is perhaps true." (English Dictionary)

Notice that greed is an Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) belief system (traditions of men/ Mk.7:5-8, 13) and is a heart problem (right lobe life style).

- 2. In our lesson text, we actually have a parable involving inheritance greed (Luke 12:13-15).**

Before giving the parable, Jesus warned against every form of greed.

(Lk.12:15) "Beware, **and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has abundance does his life consist of his possessions.**"

Then Jesus told a parable based on this doctrinal principle (Lk.12:16-21). Remember a parable has one doctrinal point.

After reading the parable, what is the doctrinal point? (Lk.12:15)

What conclusion should we make as a result of the doctrinal point? (Lk.12:21)

Pay attention to how OMCD greed failed to acknowledge God's grace abundance of employment.

3. In this agricultural parable, Jesus explained the difference between greed, Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) belief system and grace, New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) belief system present in agricultural employment.

We will examine this parable by four homiletic points.

- **Investment** in good land producing good crops (Lk.12:16). This is the grace of creative law of creator God (Gen.1:9-13/ third day).
- **Inter-dialogue** of Old Man Cosmos Diabolicus (OMCD) belief system thinking. (Lk.12:17-19; Gal.2:20)
- **Intervention** of God to New Man Divine Viewpoint (NMDV) belief system thinking. (Lk.12:20-21)
- **Insight** into doctrine of greed (Lk.12:21, 15; Col.3:5 and Eccl.5:8-20) [read]

4. Economical success is not measured by what a believer accumulates from his labors, but how rich he is towards God.

(Lk.12:21) “So is the man who lays up treasures for himself, and is **not rich** towards God.”

Later in this chapter, Luke quotes Jesus as saying, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Luke 12:34; Matt.6:19-21)

God who possesses everything has valued every believer in Christ His greatest treasure.

(Lk.18:22) “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess, and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and **come, follow Me.**” (RYR)

The question for the believer is what will you have after death?

(Lk.12:20) “You fool! This very night your soul is required of you, and now who will own what you have prepared.”

5. The believer who cannot see the importance of being rich towards God has failed to see how rich God is towards him.

(2 Cor.8:9) “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though **He was rich**, yet for your sake He became poor, that **you through His poverty might become rich.**”

Notice in our lesson text that God didn’t challenge the success or prosperity but the greed attached to them.

Doctrinal Point:

(Lk.12:15) “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”

Doctrinal Conclusion:

(Lk.12:21) “So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God.”