

## IS IT WELL WITH YOUR SOUL?

St Luke 12: 16-21; St. Matthew 16:26

The greatest assurance that anyone can have, is to know without a doubt that it is well with their soul.

The question is not: “Do you go to church?” “Do you pay tithes?” “Do you sing in the choir?” or even “Do you believe in God?” The question is “Is it well with YOUR soul?” Are you sure that if God required your soul today, that you have made the necessary preparations to ensure your eternal future? Do you have peace with God? Are you certain that you would spend eternity with him?

One of the great deceptions of satan, is to keep people in a lackadaisical mindset when it concerns their soul/spiritual life. He does all within his power to keep us distracted and unfocused on that which is vital for our spiritual well being. The glitter and glamour of Hollywood, so to speak, has caused many to be more concerned about setting up their treasures on earth and forgetting to set their treasures in heaven, thereby securing their eternal future. Unfortunately this spirit has affected many Christians as well.

God certainly wants to bless his children and not have them wait until they get to heaven to receive the blessings, however, he wants us to wear this world like a “loose garment” so that if he requires us to let go of relationships that are not healthy, or let go of resources and invest them into the Kingdom, or whatever he requires of us, that we can let them go, deeming his will to be better than our fleshy desires.

When we read the parable about the rich man in St. Luke 12: 16-21 we see an attitude very much like many people in our world today. In those few verses, he used the word “I” six times and the word “my” twice. His mindset was one that made him only concerned about his riches and his overflow. Never did he consider sharing with others. Never did he consider that although he was in a good place materialistically speaking, he never made his calling and election sure. He did not know (as none of us do) when his soul would be required. He did not consider the fact that because we bring nothing into this world, we take nothing out. “Therefore when God required his soul, sad was his condition. Everything he owned was left here for family and friends to fight over.

What lessons can be learned from this parable?

Lesson #1- Life is more than possessions.

God does not mind if we have things. God does mind however, when things have us. The Bible clearly states that life consists not of the abundance of things that we possess. We have to be careful that we put “First Things First.” The first priority in life is to have a relationship with God and have peace with him, knowing that our eternal future is secure. We have to understand that “things” will never make us happy. The flesh is never satisfied therefore there will always be another dress, another house, another car, another promotion, another, another, and another. Many people in the world today, especially the rich and the famous, find themselves on magazine covers, losing their minds, divorcing multiple times and unfortunately even committing suicide. Obviously, money is not the answer. It can bring happiness, but it can never bring joy. There is a space inside the heart of every human that only GOD can fill. Therefore, LIFE begins with knowing and loving God.

Lesson #2 – Nothing is more valuable than your soul.

We can put a price tag on just about anything in this world. We can put a price tag on houses, cars, clothing, vacations, ships, and everything else in this world. No matter what it is, there is a specific price tag. However, the soul is invaluable. All of the money in the world could not pay for a soul. Our souls are priceless. Therefore, to put more emphasis on “Who wants to be a millionaire” or “Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous” is futile, when compared to the soul. The soul has to spend eternity somewhere. Life has many choices, but eternity only has two.

Lesson #3 – Life is uncertain

Life is filled with changes. Time and dispensations bring forth those changes. The only thing in life that is certain – is uncertainty. Our lives can change in an instant. One bout of sickness, one bad investment, one loss of a loved one, one job change, can cause our world to turn upside down. We can be up today, and one phone call can change our whole life. Therefore, we must keep our future in the hands of the one who holds the future because no matter what happens, God is in control and he is the one that can keep us in the midst of our dilemmas.

Lesson #4 – Make more provisions for the soul than for the body.

It is unrealistic to think that we can live in this world and not desire some of the finer things in life. That is natural and acceptable with God. Money is not inherently evil. His very word declares that for a man to eat and drink the fruits of his labor is the gift of God. However, let us not make the mistake that the rich man in Luke 12 made. He lived only for the moment, planned his entire future, but left God out of the equation. We must keep things in their proper perspective. (Have a relationship with God, and everything else comes after that.)

- Please note that in any of our sermons where satan's name is used, we will not capitalize his name. We would rather be grammatically incorrect than to give him the honor of capitalizing his name.