

How To Avoid Selfishness

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." (Luke 12:13)

- A. A rabbi like Jesus did not make these kinds of legal decisions about how an inheritance got divided.**
- B. An inheritance in the first century was always about one thing: land.**

What's the thing going on here? Greed

Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" (Luke 12:14)

The word *arbiter* that is used here comes from the word *divider*.

Then he said to them, "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)

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man, produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'" (Luke 12:16,17)

Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones. And there I will store all my grain and my goods." And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." 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 anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:18-21)

Maybe what we need to learn from this is that Jesus wants to save us from having too much, because many times it makes our life all about us. The story begins with a man who is greedy over a piece of land and ends with somebody losing their life because of their greed.