

LIFE OF CHRIST  
from the gospel of  
Luke

Lesson 32

Don't Be Selfish

Luke 12:13-21

# Life of Christ

## Don't Be Selfish

Luke 12:13-21

### Younger Verse

Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be. Matthew 6:21

### Older Verse

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### Bible Story



*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus had been teaching about many different things. Last time we learned about how to pray. Jesus wanted the people to understand what is really important in life—having a right relationship with God. But many of the people then and today do not understand. They are more worried about things here on earth than about the things of God.

As Jesus was teaching the people, a man called out, “Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our father’s inheritance.” An inheritance is the money the family gets when the person has died. So the brother was upset because he had not received his part of the money. He obviously respected Jesus’ authority and thought that Jesus would help him.

But Jesus wanted the man to see what is really important. So He didn’t do what the man asked, but instead taught him a lesson. Jesus told the man, “Don’t be greedy for what you don’t have. Real life is not measured by how much we own.” Then Jesus told a story to help the man understand this.

There was a rich man who owned a farm. His farm did very well and produced many crops. There was so much that his barns were all full to overflowing! Instead of sharing what he had with others, the man decided to build bigger barns to store all of the crops. He said to himself, “Then I can have enough to enjoy for a long time! I can eat, drink, and enjoy life!”

But God said to the man, “You are foolish! This very night you will die. Then who will be left to enjoy all of this?” Jesus said that’s how it will be for those who store up treasure on earth but do not have a rich relationship with God.

This is a lesson for us, too. It is easy to be greedy. That means we want more and more stuff. Instead of caring about people or God, we only think about ourselves. Jesus tells us that we should love God and care for others. We should help others instead of collecting stuff for ourselves.

### Lesson Goals

**Learn that Jesus taught not to be greedy for things**  
**Learn that we need to seek the things of God first**  
**Make sure we have a right relationship with God**

Jesus is our example of living this kind of unselfish life. He left the riches of Heaven to come to earth. He did this so that we can have eternal life. He gave up His riches to make us rich—but not rich with money! We can be rich spiritually! We can have peace, joy, love, and all the fruit of the Spirit when we give our lives to Jesus.

Jesus died on the cross to give us eternal life. He is waiting to give us this gift. But we have to accept the gift. We do this by asking Jesus to forgive our sins. We must believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again three days later. Romans 10:9 says, “If you say with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Once we have accepted Christ, we can share His gift with others. We live our lives to please God, not ourselves. That is how to be rich—for eternity.

### Review Questions

1. What did the man ask Jesus to do for him? (He wanted Jesus to tell his brother to give him his share of their father’s inheritance.)
2. How did Jesus respond to the man’s request? (He told the man not to be greedy for things here on earth.)
3. What happened to the man in the story Jesus told? (He wanted to keep all of his crops for himself to enjoy, but he died before he got to do this.)
4. What was the lesson Jesus was teaching in the story? (Do not be greedy for the things in earth, but be rich in your relationship with God.)

### Life Application

Can we take our possessions with us when we die? Of course not! Yet many people live like all the things of this life are going to last forever. We need to remember that this is not true. Satan wants us to forget about God and think only about things here on earth. He wants us to be selfish and not think about others.

Don’t listen to Satan’s lies. Listen instead to God’s Word. “Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten and rusty and where they will be safe from thieves. Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

Planning for Lesson 33  
Don’t Worry  
Luke 12:22-34

## Preschool Lesson for Don't Be Selfish

Do you know what it means to be selfish? Selfish people try to get more and more for themselves. They do not share what they have with others. Jesus wants us to share and not be greedy or selfish.

Jesus told a story to teach us not to be selfish. There was a rich man who owned a farm. His farm did very well and produced many crops. There was so much that his barns were all full to overflowing! Instead of sharing what he had with others, the man decided to build bigger barns to store all of the crops. He said to himself, "Then I can have enough to enjoy for a long time! I can eat, drink, and enjoy life!"

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**Hands-on Activities  
for  
Don't Be Selfish**

You might share this story as another example of the foolishness of greed:

*Once upon a time, there was a dog who found a big, meaty bone. He was so excited to get back to his doghouse to chew on the bone. As he was carrying it back, he passed by a pond. As he gazed into the pond, he saw his reflection AND a big, meaty bone. It looked so delicious and much bigger than the bone he had in his mouth. The poor dog did not realize it was just a reflection of the bone he had. The more he looked at the bone, the more he wanted it. Suddenly, he dropped the bone he had to get the one he saw. To his surprise, the bone fell into the water and it was gone forever. The dog was greedy and lost everything because he wanted more.*

Make a treasure map for the kids to find “treasure.” Where “X” marks the spot, put a Bible verse about giving or sharing.

Many people are weighed down with greed. They want more and more. Bring little weights and show how they add up to lots of struggle. When the weights (of sin) are removed, we are free and able to help others.

Bring fake coins and a small cross. Ask the kids which is more important—coins or the cross? Talk about what Jesus did for us on the cross. Then talk about how temporary money is. Only Jesus and His love will last forever. Money will not.

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Matthew 6:21



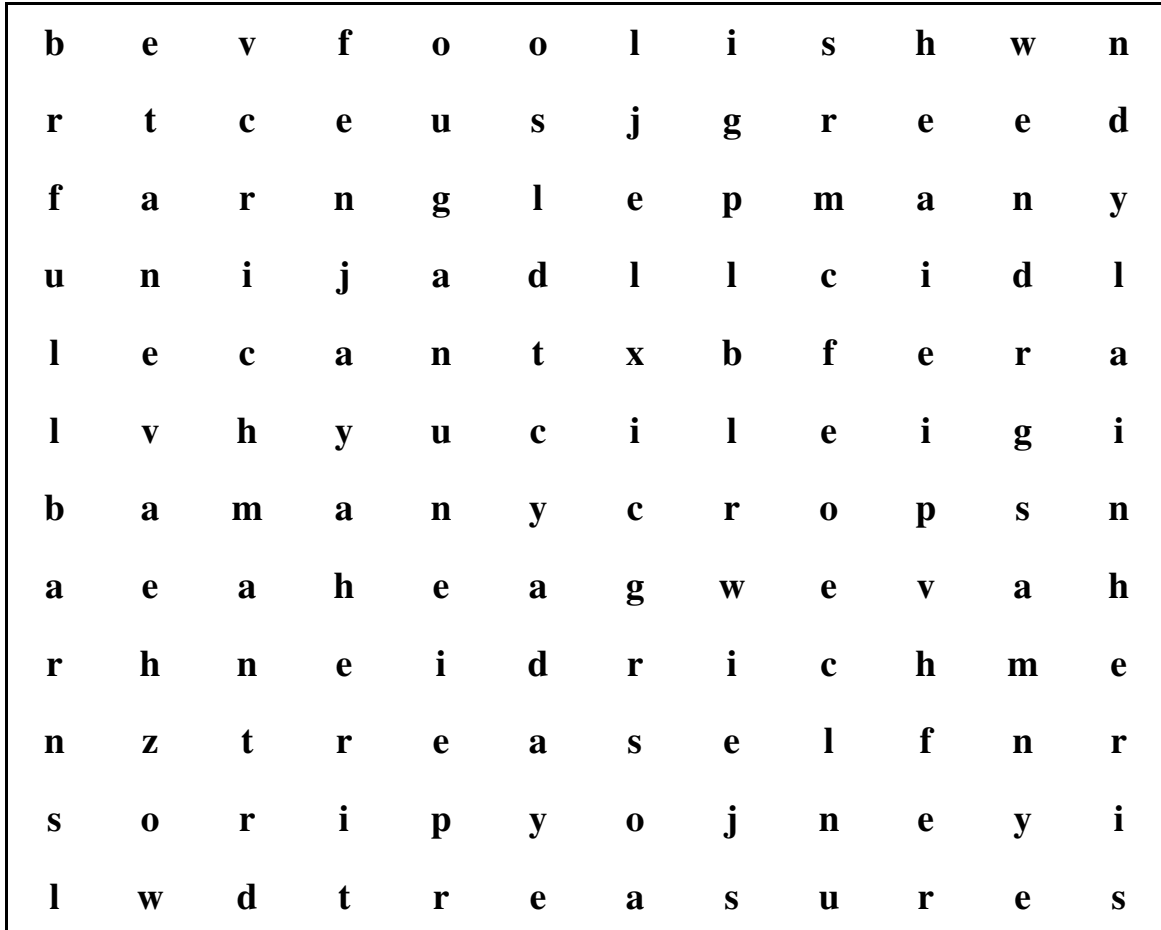
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# Word Search

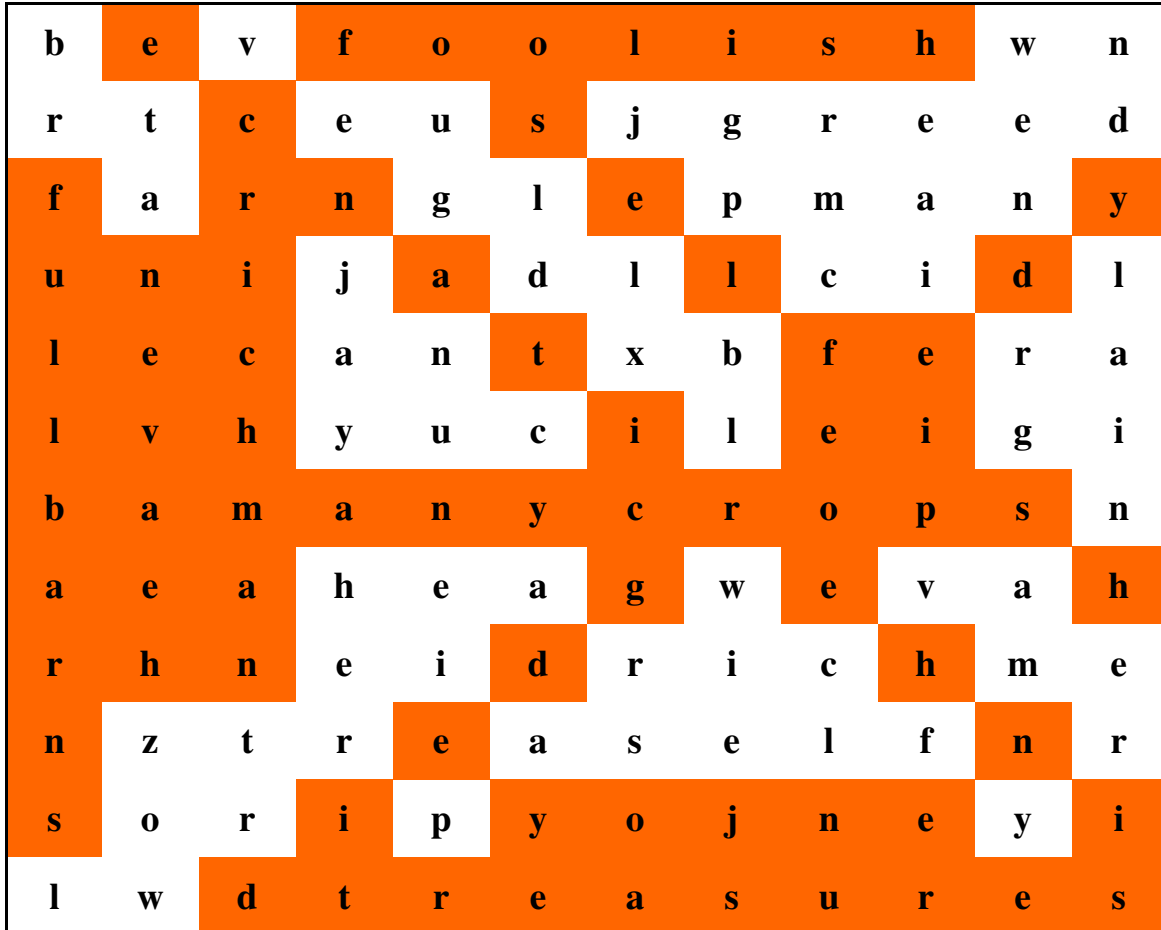
## Don't Be Selfish



<b>greedy</b>	<b>selfish</b>	<b>inheritance</b>
<b>rich man</b>	<b>many crops</b>	<b>full barns</b>
<b>enjoy</b>	<b>died</b>	<b>foolish</b>
<b>treasures</b>	<b>heaven</b>	

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greedy	selfish	inheritance
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