

Title: ON THE ROAD TO GLORY, LUKE 12:22 – 40
(Chatham, NJ; 08/07/16, AM) [Pc – String of Beads Outline]

Theme: In furthering last week's discussion about the "good life," Jesus discusses appropriate ways of seeking the Kingdom.

Purpose: To fill out some of the details of what it takes to seek the Kingdom of God and to experience life on the road to glory.

Introduction:

1. Last week Jesus described the good life by exposing the life of a rich fool to examination.
2. His wealth and ease served him little on the day of his death.
3. He failed to perceive the wisdom that would have made him rich toward God.
4. This week Jesus reveals a few details about how to experience the good life and how to obtain the riches that last.
5. Can we think of these less as commands and more as opportunities to experience the good life?

I. Faith Transcends Anxiety, 22-31

A. Two Truths Clarify the Way We Should Go

1. First, life is more than food
2. In Philippians 3:19 Paul describes people "whose god is their stomach"
3. We are not just talking about gluttons; when food becomes an obsession, we tend to think about it all the time; food consumes us, we don't consume it
4. Second, the body is more than clothing
5. Dressing nicely can also become an obsession: this body is meant to be clothed with eternity
6. Obsess over something more than food and clothing

B. Learn to control what you can control; let go of what you can't

1. Can you add a single hour to your life?
2. Good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle seem to work
3. If nothing else they give a better quality of physical life
4. Until you consider the Rich Fool – man knows not the hour of his death
5. The flowers and the birds live their lives with what seems like little effort
6. Nature itself reflects the power and provisions of God
7. Hence the wisdom: seek the Kingdom and these will be added to you
8. "Save money, live better" may work as a marketing ploy for Walmart, but in the long run it is shallow and short-sited

II. We Need Less than We Think, 32-34

A. Do you want the gift?

1. The Father gets pleasure from giving us the Kingdom, 32
2. Pleasure doesn't sound like a thing we can associate with God
3. I know of no other Scripture that reveals God deriving pleasure from something
4. I know He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked
5. Yet He gets pleasure from giving us the Kingdom

B. Simplify your life

1. Sell what you don't need
2. Give to those who do need
3. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."
4. Use these gifts as a means of building a treasure chest of heavenly things
5. This life is passing away; we are only exiles on the way to the Kingdom
6. The great spiritual truth is that simplicity triumphs over amassing things
7. The simple life is the good life

III. Be Ready for Action, 35-40

A. To catch a thief

1. Vigilance like a detachment of soldiers on the flank of Ft. McHenry in the pouring rain
2. Only by staying awake can we catch the thief: he doesn't let us know when he's coming
3. Stay awake; the journey can be long: Van Gogh's description of a man on a journey
4. Like the servant's waiting for the master to return, we are called to vigilance
5. Jesus will not tell us when he is coming; he will simply show up

B. Vigilance can be wearisome

1. Some servants turn to laziness, abuse, and dissipation
2. A common malady demanding a strong sense of duty
3. Lack of vigilance carries its own punishment: freedoms must be fought for to be maintained, and self-discipline is demanded of those who wish to be self-governed
4. We are further answerable to a higher authority: the master will come and "cut him in pieces" and assign the wicked servants to a place with the faithless

Conclusions:

1. When anxiety strikes, remember faith.
2. Live simply: life does not consist in the abundance of one's possessions.
3. Think about what you really need; give away the rest.
4. Be like servants waiting for their master to return.
5. Serve faithfully; be ready to open the door when he comes; treat the other servants with respect.
6. God wants to give you the Kingdom.
7. Accept the gift today by obeying the Gospel.