

- A.I heard about a child's birthday party, that when they were passing out the pieces of cake one kid was heard saying, "I want the biggest piece!"  
The mom looked a little embarrassed and smiled and said "You know, it is not polite to ask for the biggest piece."  
The little boy looked down at the floor. When he looked up, he sort of scrunched his face and asked "Well, then, how do you get it?" -- Olive Freeman, Wilmington, N.C. Christian Reader, "Kids of the Kingdom."
- B.Last week we talked about how humility is actually less of an adjective and more of a verb, and that we become like Jesus when we are a little less interested in the seats at the head table and a little more interested in the people in the lower seats.
- C.Humility is about not always getting the biggest piece of the pie.
- D.Today is Father's Day. One of the struggles for most men is that we like getting the biggest piece of the pie.
- E.Our egos are so easily caught up in the things we own, the size of our bank accounts, our accomplishments.
- F.Dan was a single guy living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, he decided he needed a wife with which to share his fortune.  
One evening at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen.  
Her natural beauty took his breath away. 'I may look like just an ordinary man,' he said to her, 'but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit 20 million dollars.' Impressed, the woman asked for his business card and three days later, she married his father and became his stepmother.  
Women are so much better at estate planning than men.

II. Human Nature wants Jesus to \_\_\_\_\_ us, Jesus wants to \_\_\_\_\_ us!

- A.Jesus has a lot to say about how we handle our estate.
- B.*(Luke 12:13-21 NIV) Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." {14} Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"*
- C.Doesn't this sound like the little boy at the birthday party.
- D.Jesus, my brother got a bigger piece of the pie. Do something about it.
- E.It wasn't odd for a teacher or Rabbi to be asked to settle disputes between family members.
- F.This guy is about to open a bigger can of worms than he ever expected.
- G. ***Human Nature wants Jesus to Serve us, Jesus wants to Save us!***
- H.Jesus isn't the class monitor. He isn't an arbitrator.
- I.Be careful what you ask of Jesus, because more than likely He has got a parable for you

III. Not \_\_\_\_\_ barns, but \_\_\_\_\_ barns!

- A.*{15} 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." {16} And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. {17} He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' {18} "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. {19} 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."' {20} "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?' {21} "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."*
- B.UCLA Higher Education Research Institute reported in U.S. News & World Report, 3/4/91. 74% of college freshmen who said they considered it an important goal to "become wealthy": 43% said it was important to "develop a philosophy of life

- C. *Jim Loehr and Tony Schwartz The Power of Full Engagement* pg. 137 "Nowhere are the limits of an external source of purpose so clear as with money. While money serves as a primary source of motivation and an ongoing preoccupation for many of us, researchers have found almost no correlation between income levels and happiness."
- D. *Jim Loehr and Tony Schwartz, The Power of Full Engagement* pg. 137 "Between 1957 and 1990, per person income in the United States doubled, taking into account inflation. Not only did people's reported levels of happiness fail to increase at all during the same period, but rates of depression grew nearly tenfold. The incidence of divorce, suicide, alcoholism and drug abuse also rose dramatically."
- E. What Jesus is communicating is we don't need ***Bigger Barns, but Better Barns!***
- F. *The Relationship Principles of Jesus* (Tom Holladay)- Because to all appearances you can reach a lesser value more quickly, you'll be continually tempted to make it your first priority. Those who try to love both God and money end up loving just money.
- G. Quite frankly, it is easier to make a lot of money than it is to truly be happy. It is easier to make a lot of money than to be a good father. It is easier to make a lot of money than it is to be a faithful husband.
- H. Jesus isn't against a good work ethic. He understands the value of hard work and wants us to prosper.
- I. Here are some interesting facts about how men, husbands, and fathers make a difference.
- J. FamilyFacts.org
1. Married couples are less likely than cohabiting couples to be in poverty.
  2. Children living with married parents are less likely to live in poverty than peers in other family structures.
  3. On average, married mothers have much higher per-capita family incomes than peers who are divorced, single, or cohabiting.
  4. Married men tend to have higher incomes than men in cohabiting relationships—as much as twice as high.
  5. On average, married-couple families accumulate significantly more assets than female-headed households—as much as nearly four times more.
- K. *The Power of Full Engagement Jim Loehr and Tony Schwartz* pg. 138 "Income also doesn't noticeably influence satisfaction with marriage, family, friendship or ourselves—all of which do predict a sense of well being. Happiness, in turn, has been clearly associated with higher productivity. In short, money may not buy happiness, but happiness may help you get rich."
- L. *What would you do if your life \_\_\_\_\_ on it?*
- M. {20} *"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?'* {21} *"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."*
- N. The trend of American culture is to undergird us with material securities from the cradle to the grave, with all kinds of insurances—health, old-age, education, unemployment and so on. We insure ourselves against fire, earthquake, hurricane, accident and old age. These aren't wrong, but they can be a serious roadblock to our complete trust in God. Certainly, if our debts are paid, if we have money in the bank, and our refrigerator is full we have a tendency to feel secure in ourselves. That is where the danger lies as we tend to sense our need of God less.
- O. The real question Jesus is asking, ***What would you do if your life depended on it?***
- P. Would you live your life differently if you really came to understand how short life really is.
- Q. Would your value system change if you knew you or someone close to you would perish by tomorrow.
- R. Last week, people camping in Arkansas went to sleep with every confidence that they would wake up in the morning. 20 didn't.

S. USA Today reported this week that reclusive hotel mogul and German tycoon, Dieter Bock, one of Germany's wealthiest men, died at age 71 after reportedly choking on a piece of meat at a five-star Hotel Atlantic in Hamburg, Germany, that he part owned, European papers are reporting.

T. In the movie Casualties of War, Michael J. Fox plays Private Erikson, a soldier in Vietnam who is part of a squad that abducts and rapes a young Vietnamese girl. He didn't participate in the crime. The men justify their actions because they are living so close to the possibility of death. Private Erikson struggles with what has happened,

U. Most of us want to sit around and quibble that someone got a bigger piece of the inheritance, the attention, the pie, the credit.

V. "Just because each of us might at any second be blown away, we're acting like we can do anything we want, as though it doesn't matter what we do. I'm thinking it's just the opposite. BECAUSE WE MIGHT BE DEAD IN THE NEXT SPLIT-SECOND, MAYBE WE GOTTA BE EXTRA CAREFUL WHAT WE DO. BECAUSE MAYBE IT MATTERS MORE. MAYBE IT MATTERS MORE THAN WE EVER KNOW."

W. {20} *"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?' {21} "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."*

#### IV. Invitation