

on day (house)  
BANK = Robb

S. N. June 24, 79 P.M. WXR  
Brookbury 20, 89 P.M.

AV A-rig

"AVARICE"

Luke 12:13-21

Breathon Sept 1, 1991 P.M. v.v.  
Lake Drummond Feb 25, 96 AM v.v.  
NW W - Nov. 25, 2001 Am. v.v.

### One of 7 Deadly Sins -

L. 12.13-15

We come to deal an with excessive or inordinate desire of gain. It has to do with greediness. It is like somebody in the crowd said to Jesus speak to my brother about dividing the inheritance with me. Say Jesus said to him, say fella, who appointed me a judge, to settle this between you two. Then he said unto them, "you all ought to be careful and on your guard against all kinds of greediness. For a person's life is not for the piling up of possessions."

V. 16

He then gave them a comparison of a certain rich man's farm that produced well. He held a meeting with himself and said, what shall I do, I don't have enough room to store my crops. He said, here's what I'll do. I'll tear down my old barns and build bigger ones. I'll store all of my wheat and produce. I will say to my self, sure, you have enough stuff stashed away to do you a lifetime. Recline, dine, wine, and shine.

seen on Church Bulletin Board - "Not everyone who enters church has been converted, so please watch your handbags & wallets."

V. 20

But, God said to him, you are a nit-wit at this very moment. Your goods are destroying your soul. All of these things that you have grubbed for, to whom shall they really belong. That is the way it is with the man who piles up stuff for himself - without giving thought to God."

A Millionaire lay dying - He had lived a life indifferent to the claims of the church - at last called a minister in & weakly muttered - "if I could have 100,000 to the ch. will that help me get into heaven? - Presider cautiously says - it wouldn't be positive but it's well worth trying."

Now we can settle down to just these two cases and find about this business of greed and avarice, and selfishness, etc. What makes a man covetous? Does he just decide to be a scudge. Probably not. Most of us would like to be liked. We would prefer to be loved.

By way of introduction - there are several things in this story. But in our subject there is first of all misery. And second of all, there must be concerned with mastery.

Think of the matter of misery. Here is a point that we need to be faced with.

The sin of greed. It might be translated covetousness. Or greediness.

Don't grumble because you don't have what you want -  
Be thankful you don't get what you deserve,

In all ages of greed, is an ugly word and always it contains a certain basic idea as it is translated. It means arrogant greediness. That is, the spirit that tries to take advantage of his fellowman. It means to defraud. To over-reach. This really means that a conduct that is produced by a man - it is the shameless, and over-reaches with ambition and creates violence and injustice.

The World Lives IN Two Texts: Content and Discontent!

Basically the quality of this sin is spoken of in Rom. 1:29. The sin of the Godless world. The sin of the world - when man turns his back on the laws of God. The very opposite of the generosity of the love of God. Is here spoken of.

1/12 ✓  
Luke 12:15 - it is the sin of a man who evaluates (life) in material terms. The value of life lies with the number of things that a man possesses. And a man whose one desire is to get and never even thinks of (giving).

1Thess. 2:5 - 2 Peter 2:3 - The (sin) is described as the man who uses his position to make merchandise of the people that he ought to serve. He exploits rather than serves.

Col. 3:5 identifies this with (idolatry). The worship of things instead of the

My husband's promise is made of "Big Shin" said a lady at every time it appears it appears  
-3-

worship of God. If you hold a penny or a nickle before your eye - it will blot out the vastness of the sun. That's what happens to a man's heart. He loses sight of God. In his mad desire to get.

Somebody suggested that if the motto "In God We Trust" is ever taken off the silver dollar, it might be well to substitute for it "I'll need Thee Every Hour."  
In Mark 7:22 - Eph. 4:19 - 2 Peter 2:14 - have connection with sexual sin.

Here in essence, it says the desire to have that which is forbidden. The desire to take what should not be taken. The disposition of ever being ready to even sacrifice one's neighbor. Not just in money dealings merely, but in every relationship of lust. Which is a sin that God really hates.

There is misery in that this leaves a trail of misery.

you are only poor when you want more than you have!

Man is restless and is forever unsatisfied.

Someone has said that we are hollow men. Or that we are stuffed men. We thirst, we try to fill our emptiness. And we speak of the almighty dollar without the slightest suspicion of what it describes. We first make a quest for power and the place to get possessions.

It is like a game in sports - the instinct is that we are seeking to be the winner. Victorious. There are small profits - and we gain the whole world and lose our soul. It is obvious that he is not losing - but he is gaining. This is life a man says. What more could you ask. Here is an individual - he even includes the church in what he calls service in the picture. Why he is living the good life. What more could God want. Don't talk to this man about sin. The fact that his ego God is what he is serving. The sin of avarice and its results. It is going

around and around. Starting out early in the morning until late at night. With his bonds, his money, his house, his lands, his factories, his dividends, his securities, his comforts to get things superior. And inside there is a hunger that is not quenched.

A man took a cruise in Florida. He went a couple of hundred miles of canals. And it is the Venice of America around Ft. Lauderdale. Along the canals are luxurious homes. Owned by wealthy people from all over America. The guide points them out with a sense of humor. Here is a beautiful home - he tells something about the owners. And as you pass by he says, here is an island by itself. The guide says Mr. So and So of Chicago lives here. That is, for a few weeks each year. He is president of this company and chairman of this board. He has a swimming pool in the center of this beautiful patio. He owns a yacht in the back yard and has a Cadillac in the front yard. He has ulcers in his stomach.

Now, this idea of living this way, and a craving - you would say that we are crazy. We are like a bunch of nuts. And yet there is misery in this. Why is it that this damnation of things - that many people cannot even enjoy the wealth of their labors. Or not for very long, 1 People who long to be rich soon begin to do all kinds of wrong things to get money. 1 TIMOTHY 6:9

Q: Solomon received a quarter-billion dollars' worth of gold each year from kings of this land. Today they might pay him in oil 2 Chron. 9:13-14

There is nothing in our day, in our lives, but what we are tempted of the material evils of this world. For even the simple things of the good old horse and buggy days, we even think about the moments today. One of the prophets wrote something about money itself, is not the root of all evil. It is the love of money. I Tim. 6:10. The love of the world with its excesses. With the greediness, with the lust of things.

1 Timothy 6:10

This easily hides from man the real enemy of his joy. If only we have if we could get one more bathroom in our house. If only we could get another in our family. If only we could get a new refrigerator. If only we could keep up with the neighbors next door. If only we were not pressed for money to buy ample food and clothes. We would be content. So we break the 10th commandment, only to be broken ourselves by the result of our covetousness.

*A story worth retelling of Lincoln + his 2 covetous sons, walking by his side crying - "What's the trouble with those boys?" Lincoln replied "Just what's the matter with the whole world - I have three wheelnuts & each boy wants two!"*

And our greediness.

1 John 2:15 - Love not the world, neither the things that are in this world, if any man love the world the love of the Father is not in him. One translator makes it clear what this poison means. Never give your hearts to this world, or to any of the things in it. You cannot love the Father and love the world at the same times.

This kind of sin is a misplaced love. And it neglects the true relationship of God. This is an out-growth of pride. Pride in the soul at the beginning.

This is character.—A banker named Wallace Byrd had an experience with evangelist Billy Sunday. Sunday came to Byrd's town to conduct a crusade. Each night huge crowds gathered to hear the powerful preaching of Sunday, but Byrd had no interest in religion and refused to attend. But by some quirk of fate, Billy Sunday arranged for an account to be set up in Byrd's bank. Every day the account grew, and so did Byrd's animosity toward the evangelist. On the Monday after his crusade ended, Sunday came into the bank to settle his affairs. Among the checks from the previous night's collection was one for five dollars. That gave Byrd a chance to express some of his resentment. "Mr. Sunday," he said, "we can't honor this check." "Why not?" Sunday asked. "Because she has less than \$5 in her account. She is a widow and is very poor." Sunday frowned at the check and Byrd saw the opportunity for an extra harpoon. "Actually," he continued, "we are holding a mortgage on her home for \$1,500. We'll have to foreclose soon." Byrd hoped that would hit this money-grabbing charlatan where it would hurt him most. Sunday nodded and tore up the check. A moment later he laid a piece of paper in front of Byrd and asked, "Will you honor this?" It was a check made out for \$1,500 and designated for the widow's mortgage. Byrd was shaken. He said, "Why are you doing this?" Sunday simply replied that "true Christianity demanded it."

of this - I read a revealing parable. It is told by Gurshenka in the Brothers Karamazov.

When Sunday left, Byrd was deeply moved and shamed. This event marked the turning point of his life and the event that led to his becoming a Christian. He said, "I never heard Billy Sunday preach from the pulpit. His only sermon to me was a signature on a personal check." That's character: what a man is when the crowd isn't watching. The writer of Proverbs says to have character, to have a good name, is better than having money in the bank.

God. She once pulled up an onion in her garden.

And God answered, you take that onion then, and hold it out to her in the lake.

There are many who have fell from a misery of avarice - of greed.

*When The Collection Plate was passed for a Missionary offering, the little old lady began to jumble in her purse. When near, practically searched by little boy noticing her plight, slid over nudged her. "Here lady" Take my dime; I can hide under the seat!!*

For love of money is the root of all evil. I Tim. 6:10. Men are driven by

this to rob, to assault, to attack, to steal. To slander, to murder. Did you know that this was one of the first sins that lifted its head in the Garden of Eden. Gen. 3:6. When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat.

This sin of greed is as much a part of the natural man as breathing. From just an infant to old age, it is in action one way or another. The matter of man saying

I am going to be #1. Look out for #1. Take all the advantages of everyone else.

The Garden of Eden was a place of great beauty until this sin crept in. And then it became a swamp with a flaming sword of judgement. Life that had been holy and wonderful, man can never know the fellowship of God until he finds victory over this sin of greed and selfishness. No sin can rob a man of this blessing.

Look in the pages of the Bible and you will find the misery that is deadly in this sin. King Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard and finally brought about the murder of that man because of this very sin. But the voice of God came and said, where the dogs lick the blood of Naboth, they shall lick thy blood. I Kings 21:19.

Yes, it sealed his destiny. Ahab little dreamed that the innocent seed of greed in his heart would one day bring death and judgement.

Joseph's brothers planted the same seed. They sold their Godly brother into slavery. But little did they foreseen the harvest of famine and the misery when avarice came into full bloom.

You remember the rich man of whom Jesus spoke, who sowed a crop of selfishness and greed. The rich man soon came to know that his full barns and his full pockets was but an empty heart. And he was soon to drop dead with a voice in Heaven saying - thou fool. This night thy soul is required of thee.

Judas was driven to greed - and he sold his Lord for 30 pieces of silver. And he found out that life was not worth living without Christ. So he cast aside the silver at the feet of the greedy men with whom he had made a poor bargain, went out, and hanged himself. And he was strangled by this sin.

Think of all of those like Ahab, like Judas, and men of every age who have suffered misery. Christ says in Luke 12:21 "so is he that layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

Another thing this does, it cheats, it robs, it murders, it slanders to achieve its desires. The Bible tells us that these many sins are born as we read in Jer. 6:13. From the least of them - even unto the greatest of them. Everyone is given to covetousness. Little babies are born with selfishness. They have greedy natures. Though they cannot make requirements known in words, they have ways of making their desires known.

A preacher told about visiting in a home where the Grandmother, the housekeeper, and the Father were running in every direction. In a frantic effort to gratify the desires of a single baby. Even growing children are selfish in nature. "Daddy, what did you get me." Is a familiar statement in every home, as well as in yours.

Jeremiah said, from the least of them - even unto the greatest of them.

Everyone is given to covetousness = 6:13.

As long as the prodigal son sang the song of "give me" - his lot was miserable. It was want - it was famine. Until he changed and he began to say, "forgive me". He found himself in the state of fellowship, comfort, and plenty.

Charles Kingsley said, if you wish to be miserable - think about yourself.

About what you want, what you like, and what respect people ought to pay you. And then to you nothing will be pure. It will spoil everything you touch. And make misery for yourself out of everything good. You will be as wretched as you choose.

Rom. 1:29 - rates this sin as very vicious - being full of all unrighteousness.

Fornication, wicked, covetousness. Rom. 13:9 - even mentions murder. Stealing and lying along with this sin. Miss Gaberna - spoke at Johns Bay Charlotte

Terrible Days of Nazi Forces - Family leave Home HOLLAND - Bombing - Army Surrendered - Daddy sent Her Bicycle, ride country to old Home, Heard bomb, Nothing there, ashen, Everything gone, Tell Her "it's all gone"; Father a Christian took Her in arm looked face "Things of this life are not to be held tightly in our hands - Things must Always be held with Finger Tip's, Not clutched & grasped as

There are so many people that say this may be harmless. They consider that they can go on in this sin. The Bible, so far as we know, warns the covetous man. A man cannot even inherit the kingdom of God. I Cor. 6:10. They mattered all that much" Bless you Gaberna!

The misery of this sin is classified as (idolatry) A piece of silver, we have stated can be held up to the eye and that you cannot see the sun. And the love of money can be so full in a man's heart that God will be crowded out. The age of materialism will take over. Mark 8:36 says - "what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul." If our lives are to show a profit in the record book then we must have more than dollar signs written.



just like a fever in their body, that drives them to gamble. They lose money and then they lose their soul. I read the story about a man in Death Valley, California. They discovered the skelton of this man - he had died, in the desert. Clutched in his boney hand was a chunk of mica which resembled gold. It deceived this man, he had mistaken the yellow streaks in this rock for gold. On a scrape of paper under the skelton, was written the words - died rich. He had thought he was rich but he starved to death - lost and alone. That story illustrates the deceitfulness of riches. If we have nothing more than money, we are poor indeed. There are many people who think they are rich in economic security. But they are poor toward God.

One of the saddest stories in the New Testament is that of the rich young ruler leaving Jesus sorrowfully. His pockets were full but his heart was empty. He was interested in the eternal life but he was not willing to pay the price of consecration. That is true in the lives of many people. It is not a sin to be rich if you have gotten your riches honestly. Then God considers you a steward of that which he has given you. But if your riches have choked out your spiritual life - then it has become sin. And you are poverty-stricken in the sight of God.

We read in the Bible about some rich men who dedicated their riches to God.

*mill - flour*  
 Story a Miller asked an apple grower - How is it when I measured the 5 Barrels of apples you sold me last week, I was almost a Barrel short! That's a fair question Apple grower replied, all he did was to send Now, that leads us to say - mastery. Then to you in 5 of your own Flour Barrels!

II. MASTERY

There is misery - but there should be mastery in this. And in comparison, the rest of the world is considerably poor. If you have shoes to wear, clothes on your back, food to eat. By American standards, you are rich. So the sin that we are talking about is actually one of the greatest sins and stumbling blocks into the kingdom of Heaven. But what we want to know is something about the

And share them with others. That the goodness in your heart will be shed abroad. There are many illustrations which we might give. But Jesus said, these things I have spoken to you and my joy may be in you. And that your joy may be full. John 15:11.

There is so much of the misery found in this sin. And yet, we must discover the master of it and enjoy God forever.

John Wanamaker - some one ask How can you be such a Dedicated Person? You serve in important role in our government - own & operate a large department store - find time to be superintendent of large sun. school - How can you do it? Ans - yrs. ago Baid my life on one verse of script. Seek ye first The Kingdom of God & his righteousness To enjoy God is to enjoy his creation. Job 38:7. and all these things shall be added unto you."

Only a Commitment like this can serve as basis of Stewardship for your life -

Another once said "Choose well - your choice is brief yet endless" you are given the opportunity of choice

- and discover the meaning of life. It is seeing the deepest joy - that here we lose self in Christ.

Godur 20:17 Thankful for love by Kithroy - et

And finally, that we belong to God as sons of God. That this entire world, and the world to come, will be ours through inheritance. And this will be a joy untold for us.

One great Christian saint said, in the last minute of life, to his neice - "Christianity taught us to care." Caring is the greatest thing - caring matters most. Yes, he knew that the care of the love of the Father, was the thing that would hold him steady and this is exactly what we need.

Story a Church taking a Missionary offering. As they passed the plate by one man refused to put anything in. He said, "I don't believe in missions."

The man who passed the plate was real quick thinker & he just passed the plate right back to him & said, "well take some out then, it's for the heathen" - you are in or out on this sin - mat. 8:12

✓ Hetty Green - Black widow of Wall ST -  
always wore Black -

Family - (Whaling) Industry - great deal Money  
learned to handle investment

✓ Age 30 - Father died - \$1 million Cash + several M investments

✓ Aunt died - Received income another \$1 M -

✓ Married a millionaire - helped her  
Doubled her inheritance -

✓ Husband died leaving her wealthiest woman

A Miser - greedy - Covetous

• lived 1 yr. on money earned in 2 hours

✓ Prescription - Druggist charge extra bottle 5¢ Brought own bottle

✓ A.M. News Paper - read - sent Boy downtown to sell it!

lived fear - relatives -

• Boris' leg hurt - tried nurse - amputated -

Put on ragged clothes to get treatment

As a pauper -

✓ Did over 100 million Dollars -

lived cheapest hotels - eat dining outwards -  
Have NOTHING

• James said ya widow she hath put in her who living!

• J.C. Penney - God worthy of my trusts -

Sanitarium - wished to die -

Ch-Choir - Chapel - "God will take care of you"

came to sing Faith -

Lived 96

gave fortune to

God's work

Some tonight - worry what happen to me -  
How we make it old age? - etc.

"It is worthy of our trust!"

"God will take care of me -

✓ He that loseth his life for my sake shall find it Matt. 10:39

Charles Athem Minister Howatia, Tex - Told story about his father

Family lived little Georgia Town - life simple -

Christmas Eve - father 7 yrs old - being drive Cleveland, told him could go -

As left in Wagon father gave him his 1st Dime -  
Never had one before - Spend it just as he liked -

Got to Town - looking stores, something to buy

Oranges - Toys - Red Candy etc - and Pick -

Lunch, Time - Wagon for dinner -

Hurried back store -

Finally time go back home - Made his Decision, Package in pocket, ran to Wagon -

Riding Home - He pulled his package out, Then rode up to father, handed him the package, said "I bought you a Christmas present!"

It was a Huge "Red Hankerchief!"

Ahh his life He got more Joy out of giving his dime

Back to his father who gave it to him -

More Joy than if spent on self -

This is a by word & there are many ways to spend life,

I can spend it all on myself!

The Best Way is give it back to the Father who gave it to me.

I am sure to get more out of it that way -  
It is true of us all.

went face to face with the Devil. He began to be afraid to cast into his mind whether to stand his ground or to go back. He resolved that he would venture to stand his ground. He did. And he said that the saving of his life would be the best way to stand - and so he went on.

John Bunyan in his understanding of covetousness, said we are prompted by choices and decisions. And it depends on what a man has in his eye. If all he can see is things. Then of a necessity, he becomes his own authority and his own administrator. And develops his own life-style. But we are to beware of this kind of life. For what is the chief end of man? To glorify God and to enjoy him forever. Now this view comes, I think, which we can back up by Scripture. And this is our sin. We have put out of order the work of our creator. We are trying to glorify selves and to enjoy things forever. This will not work. We must gain the mastery over this, consider the lillies of the field. Do not be anxious about your life. All things are yours - even the world. All that you have to do is to look up to God, your creator, he is your friend and Saviour - and say, Lord, what is thy will for these things. And for me. And you will discover that the restlessness of your soul will rest in the divine spirit. And there will be the fruit of joy.

And there will be a song that will come into your life. For blessed is he that is hungry, and thirst after righteousness.

I think that you had rather have joy - than maybe have the fine furniture or the other things that may be a thing that you have had greed over. But to become a new creature in Christ Jesus. You will be able to relax your grip on these possessions. And you will use the things that God has given you for greater joy.

The love of money really darkens a heart. Spoils our happiness. And sets us in conflict one with another. The lust of these things is something that has power in every age. People down through the centuries have brought about slavery, suffering, and death.

The love of money cause wars. And people to plunder other people's goods. It causes robberies and we read about this daily in the newspapers. It causes murder. It is a sin that causes a dairyman to put water in the milk. It causes a farmer to put the best apples on the top of the barrel. It is the sin that causes a lawyer to lie and to operate on the stock market to swindle his client.

Roman fathers centuries ago, used to say to their sons, get money honestly if you can. But in any case, get money.

The great sin of America is greed in that we are so bent on making money, that we do not have time for God and spiritual exercise. There are many businesses that are kept open unnecessarily on Sunday. Desecrating God's day in order to gain a few extra dollars.

How many times I have asked people to go to church. And they have said, they had to work. They are so busy making money that they have no time for God. Americans do not realize that in their desire for ease and luxury, that they may soon lose all of the things, and the destruction of this world will take over until it will be too

late. GAMBLING industry depends on compulsive players for its profits.

Chicopee Parlor starts hot - Colonial Downs - 1st Day 70 Races - 1000 customers

By 5 P.M. \$77,000 in wagers had been placed -

750,000 in four days

Another misery that comes out of this sin, is that it causes gamblers. It is

mastery of this sin. The rich young ruler who made the great refusal and retreated from our Lord, he was sad. He was grieved because Jesus looked on him and loved him. It was visibly true. As he went away - for greed and material gain. And he will not sell out for Christ.

This is what Dante wrote about when a young man coming, searching for his lost opportunity. He is in the hamlet of the New Testament, standing mid-way between his conscience and his task. His indecision slew him. He knew more than he could do.

From an interview with Jesus, he said sell all that you have. Professor James once said, when one sees the way in which wealth getting gets entered into as an ideal, into the very bone and marrow of our generation - a man wonders whether a revival of belief that religion, poverty, that there can be a reform. Which can come in our time.

*John Gregory Jackson was working on New Year for baldness - a mixture of persimmon juice & alum!*  
He says: "It does not grow hair, what it does is shrink your head to fit what you have."  
Because we, as English speaking people, do not like to sing the songs of poverty.

But these things of the young ruler presents to us a special problem. Jesus prescribed to him a drastic remedy.

*Why do I give my money to my church - Because my church works through my hands + money!*

He did not own his riches - they really owned him. Jesus must wake him to much.

A more momentous need than he could see. He speaks of money as a talent to be made use of. Both for the advantage of it and for the blessing of mankind.

Money is a universal symbol - a product of human toil.

Robert Louis Stevenson said, everybody knows that without some measure at least, of this world's needs - a man's character would lack refinement. And Paul wrote to Timothy - the love of money is the root of all kinds of evils. Many a bloody war has produced it. In order to satisfy that and peace in the world has been broken. And today as never before in the world, we see the greedy hand spreading across this world as men are toying with the price of oil and gas. And the resources. And raising the prices. And there are thousands of lives today that are being touched by this. And there are homes that are rendered destitute. There are those that have fallen for the temptation and the snare. And this is a daily thing that comes to us in life. Men love money. Their covetous. They cause the merchant to adulterate food. Or even medicine. To grind the faces of the poor. It causes men to be tempted as a clerk to rob his employer. Just for the sake of a few dollars. It caused Judas to sell his Lord for 30 pieces. And then there are money-loving Judas's still. Who will sacrifice human well-being without any thought.

Old Ruskin said, we do a great injustice to Judas. When we think that he was wicked above all of the common wickedness. He was only a common money lover. And like all money lovers the world over, he didn't understand Christ. And he couldn't make out the worth of Christ or the meaning of Christ.

Now this is the money lovers idea the world over. He doesn't really hate Christ but he can't understand him. And he doesn't care for him. And he sees no good in that benevolent business. And he makes his own little job out of it - come what will.



and let her take hold and let her be pulled out. And if you can pull her out of the lake, let her come to Paradise. But if the onion breaks, then the woman must stay where she is.

The angel ran to the woman, held out the onion to her - come, said he. Catch hold. And I will pull you out. And he began pulling her out. He had just pulled her right out when the other sinners in the lake, seeing how she was being drawn out, began catching hold of her so as to be pulled out with her. But she was a very wicked woman and she began kicking them. I'm to be pulled out - not you. It's my onion - not yours. As soon as she said that, the onion broke. And the woman fell into the lake and the angel wept and went away.

That may be only a symbolic story, of the misery about the future Hell, but it is realistic in its interpretation that there is much Hell in human life. It is my onion, my goods, my money, my security. I, not you, am to be pulled out of my insecurity and made superior over other people.

It is this centering upon our own anxiety and seeking to save ourselves, at the cost of others around us.

The word of Jesus - in the parable of the final judgement, made the basis of rejecting. I was hungry, you gave me no food. Thirsty, you gave me no drink. Naked, you did not clothe me. Sick, and in prison - you did not visit me. As you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me. Depart from me, you cursed.