The Folly of Covetousness
Luke 12:16-21

Introduction:
A. Parable given to show the foolishness of covetousness (greed).
   1. The man’s request (v. 13)
   2. The Lord’s answer (v. 14).
   3. The Lord’s warning (v. 15).
   4. The Lord’s reason (v. 15).
B. Covetousness is “greedy desire to have more.” (Thayer)
C. Covetousness or greed is at the root of much mischief.
   1. Lawsuits, imprisonment, wars, lost souls.
   2. Families torn asunder over few dollars or things.
   3. Lord’s work suffers – greedy members, greedy churches.
   4. All rich are not greedy, all greedy are not rich.
D. This parable shows three reasons why covetousness or greed is so foolish:

Discussion:
I. The Nature of Earthly Gain.
A. Fool could not carry his gain with him (vv. 18-20).
   1. Bigger barns never built.
   2. Many years never came.
B. A covetous person sacrifices eternal riches for a mere life-time of gain.
   1. Legitimate material gain is needful (Eph. 4:28; 2 Thess. 3:8, 10-12; Jas. 4:13, 15).
   2. Greed involves both ill-gotten and ill-kept gain (Jas. 5:4; 1 John 3:17; Mal. 3:8-10).
   3. No amount of things is worth a soul (Mt. 16:26)

II. The Nature of Earthly Pleasure.
A. Fool’s aim was to “enjoy life” for many years (v. 19)
   1. What ever pleasure “things” bring end with this life.
   2. Would be fine if this life were all there is (1 Cor. 15:19, 32)
   3. One can enjoy life as a Christian (Phil. 4:4; 1 Pet. 3:10; 2 Cor. 12:10)
   4. Christians’ enjoyment of life does not depend of material things (Phil. 4:11-13)
B. When pleasure becomes the goal, then Lord’s work suffers.
   1. Churches become social centers.
   3. Partying replaces pulpit.
   4. Worldliness replaces worship.
   5. Donuts replaces “do-nots.”
   6. Pie replaces piety.

III. The Nature Earthly Life.
A. Fool did not expect to die so soon (v. 20).
B. Uncertainty of life should make all plans tentative and God-centered (Jas. 4:13-15)

Conclusion:
A. Anyone is a fool to covet because:
   1. Anything gained will soon pass away.
   2. He forfeits far greater riches (v. 21)
B. Begin now to lay up for yourselves riches in heaven, by obeying the gospel of Christ.