**The Parking lot Syndrome**

(Luke 12:13-21)

**Thesis:**  God desires that His children learn to be content and to keep Him first in our lives each and every day.

**INTRODUCTION**

1.   The title of this message is, **“The Parking Lot Syndrome”**

2.  One of the interesting psychological characteristics that is a temptation for all

      of us if the overwhelming ‘desire’ for abundance, or ‘position’

      a.  During the recent holiday season, how many of us would go to the mall or

            to a shopping center and then drive around the parking lot for 15 minutes

            trying to find that **perfect** space rather than walking that extra 25 feet and

            getting in, getting out, and getting on with our lives?

      b.  “Did you see that brother at worship today?  I think he was using an

            iPhone 6…Those came out in 2014.”

3.  Since the time of the ‘pandemic’ our society seems to have turned more

      ‘inward’ away from others and more toward our ‘self’

      a.  “I can buy **myself** flowers, write **my** name in the sand, talk to **myself** for

            hours, say things you don’t understand” (Miley Cyrus).

      b.  “Excessive sense of self-importance, entitlement, need for

            constant attention and admiration”

3.  Jesus was ministering and teaching a large crowd of people (Luke 12:1) about

      spiritual things when someone (not a disciple) speaks up and interrupts the

      teaching to try to get what he believes he is ‘entitled’ to have as his

      inheritance (Luke 12:13).

**THE INTERRUPTION**

1.   Jesus had just warned the people about the hypocritical nature of the religious leaders (Luke 12:1-3)

2.  Teaching them what fearing and honoring God means (Luke 12:4-7)

3.  Instruct them of the importance of a life of confession (Luke 12:8-12)

4.  The ‘man’ (Jesus uses the ‘generic word’ here—‘dude’) (Luke 12:13, 14).

      a.  Old Covenant “law” was very specific (Deut. 21)—the “firstborn” son was to

            receive a “double portion” the other “sons” inheritance was divided evenly

            between them.

      b.  This person from the multitude had a sense of ‘self-importance’ that

            somehow Jesus should just stop everything and deal with his sense of

            ‘entitlement’—coveteousness, and envy (Luke 12:15)

      c.   Jesus tells him (and us) that the true meaning of LIFE has nothing to do

            with STUFF—what we have, how much we have—it is not rooted in the

       “abundance” (perisseuō) ‘the excess’—the life of theYouTube/Instagram

      Influencer….

      1)  For $60 an hour you can rent a fake seat to make it appear like you are on a private jet.

      2)  Taking photos of themselves standing beside an expensive car.

      3)  Photoshop photos of where they are ‘pretending’ to be…

**THE PARABLE OF BUILDING ‘BIGGER BARNS’**

1.   Jesus uses this as an opportunity to teach a lesson by using an ‘illustration’

      (parable)—alongside, to place for the sake of comparison

2.  Some refer to this parable as that of the ‘rich fool’ but the reality is that the lesson can and

 often does apply to us whether we are rich or not (Luke 12:16-

      21).

      a.  The ground of this man was “euphoreo” (plentiful crop), the root word

            from which we get our word “euphoric” (v. 16).

            1)  There is nothing wrong or sinful about being blessed with a good crop.

            2)  God was the source of Israel’s “wealth” and seasons of prosperity (Deut.

                  8:18; 28:1ff).

3.  The problem was not the abundance, but rather his self-centered attitude

      about it.

      1.   If this man needed bigger barns, would it have been a sin to do what was

            necessary to be a good steward of his blessing?   NO.

      2.  But his attitude about this “abundance” was that he could ‘kick back’ and

            enjoy the “good life’—no mention of anything spiritual in his attitude about

            the blessing he had received.

      3.  God had other plans for this man, that he would give account for his

            attitude—then who would all of this abundance belong to?

            a.  I have seen so many people, friends, and family members alienated

                  trying to divide up what was left as an inheritance.

            b.  Losing a relationship over STUFF’ is so very pointless because STUFF

                  never lasts anyway.

                  1)  We stand on a piece of property today and say “this is MINE” and in

                        just a few short years, there is somone else standing on that SAME

                        piece of property and saying “this is MINE”

                  2)  Relationships are far more valuable than anything we can possess.

4.  Jesus wanted this man, and those of us here today to understand where true

      ‘riches’ lies—with God and not with the temporary physical things of this life.

      a.  Contentment is far better (I Tim. 6:6-10,  17-19).

      b.  When it comes to STUFF most of us have ‘more than enough’ and if we do

            not have room for what we have….there is a ‘Storage’ place right now the

            street where we can rent more space.

      c.   Linda and I lived in Hawaii for just a few years and ‘dear Lord’ just trying

            to get rid of some of that STUFF to move out here.

            1)  “Where did all this STUFF come from?”

            2)  You live in a place for a few years and it becomes a challenge!

**CONCLUSION**

1.   The ‘Parking Lot Syndrome’ is not limited to just trying to get the ‘best

      parking spot at the mall’—it is an attitude,.

2.  Do we possess our possessions or do they possess us?

3.  Are we thankful and do we have contentment before God for what we have—

      the large or the small things of life?

4.  Once we realize the freedom of knowing that life does NOT consist in the

      abundance of what we have, we are set free to share what we have with others.