

Heartstrings
Week 4: A Greedy String

1. Welcome and Introduction

- **Greeting:** Welcome everyone to Tab.
- **Personal Note:** Acknowledge special guests (Pastor Craig's father-in-law and sister-in-law from Louisiana).
- **Online Audience:** Welcome those joining online.

2. Opening Thought on Generosity

- **Main Point:** God wants generosity *for us*, not *from us*—it's a pathway to freedom.
- **Illustration:** The human tendency toward possession (day school example with children and toys).

3. The Battle of Greed in Our Hearts

- **Core Issue:** The persistent struggle of "If I just had a little more, I'd be happy."
- **Financial Focus:** Money's impact on identity, security, and faith (1 Timothy 6:10).

4. Jesus' Teaching on Greed (Luke 12:13-21)

- **Family Tensions over Finances:** Jesus' response to the man asking Him to mediate inheritance.
- **Guard Against Greed:** Life isn't defined by possessions (Luke 12:15).

5. Parable of the Rich Fool

- **The Dilemma:** Abundant harvest with no place to store it.
- **Faulty Mindset:** Rich man sees himself as an owner, not a steward.
- **Warning:** Pursuing endless possession leads to emptiness and eventually a dead end.

6. The Nature of Greed

- **Definition:** Greed is self-focused, often revealed through fixation on what's lacking.
- **Self-Centeredness:** Rich man's use of first-person pronouns shows inward focus.

7. Jesus' Reprimand and Consequence

- **Judgment:** God calls the rich man a "fool" (Luke 12:20) for his self-reliance and lack of wisdom.
- **Parable's Question:** Who will claim the possessions now that he's gone?

8. Application - Direction of Wealth

- **Two Paths:** Wealth can serve self or God.
- **Relational Aspect:** Greed strains relationships; generosity strengthens them.

9. Scriptural Guidance on Wealth's Direction (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

- **Instruction:** Set hope on God, be rich in good works, share generously.
- **Outcome:** Building a "foundation for the coming age," leading to a full life.

10. Call to Self-Evaluation and Communion

- **Reflection:** Examine heart for any “strings attached” before communion.
- **Invitation to Freedom:** Generosity as a response to God’s blessings brings life and freedom.

11. Closing Prayer

- **Theme:** Commit to a life rich toward God, free from the heartstring of greed.