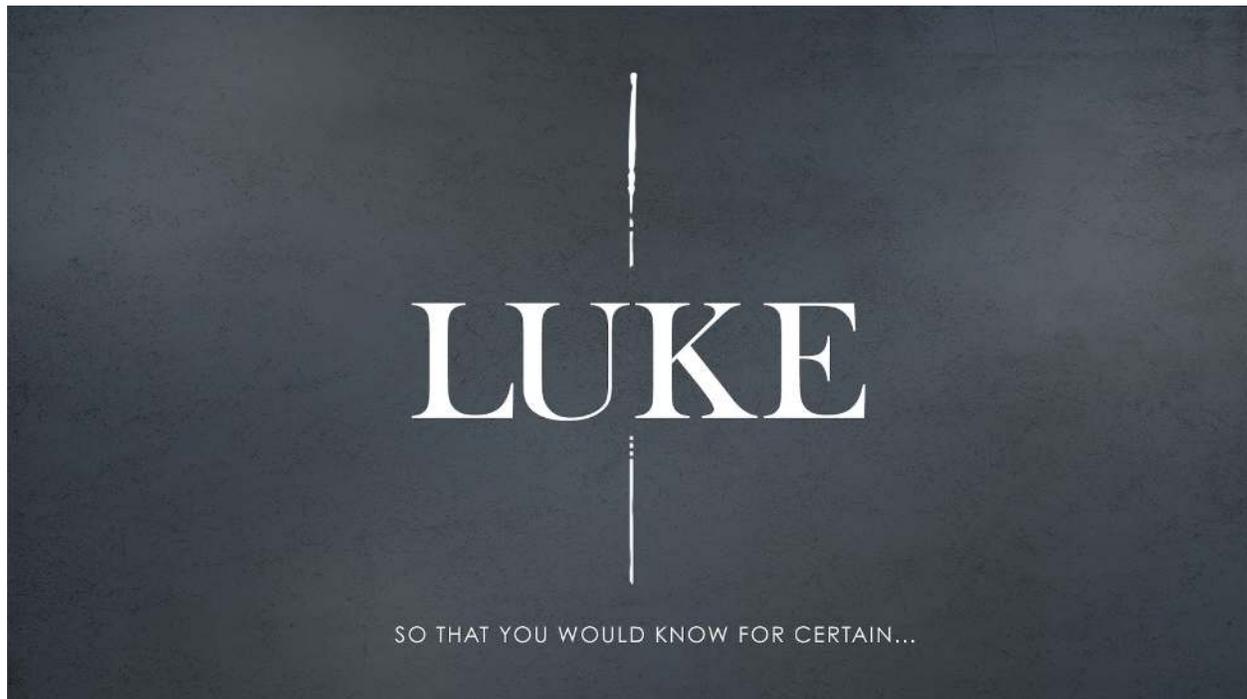


Application Questions

# The Treasure Trap

Luke Luke 12:13-34



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Greed is no respecter of persons or bank accounts. Jesus says that we will have to actively guard against it so that it doesn't overtake us in this world. As Jesus warns us, he also gives us practical application on how to fight for the right perspective.

## Read LUKE 12:13-34

Preliminary question/ icebreaker- The man who had access to Jesus for a few seconds asked him to settle a financial dispute between him and his brother. If you had one "passing" question to ask Jesus, what would it be?

1. What could some of the "different forms of greed" be that Jesus warns us to guard against?
  2. Have you ever thought about intentional ways to guard yourself against greed? If so, how have you in the past? If not, how can you moving forward?
  3. What are the places in your life that you are more vulnerable to greed?
  4. Do you think you are greedy? **\*\*(See appendix A at the bottom of this document)**
  5. Paul instructed us in II Cor. 4:18 to focus our eyes on the eternal. What are some practical ways that we can actually do this and fight against what our culture constantly pushes on us?
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6. What are some of your daily worries and fears? How does Jesus' words help us in our worries and fears?

**Appendix A:** Zogby recently conducted a large benchmark poll in which respondents identified "greed/materialism" as the number one "most urgent problem in American culture." "Poverty/economic justice" finished in second place. In a 2014 Vanity Fair poll, 78 percent of Americans disagreed with the famous Gordon Gekko quote "Greed is good." Only 19 percent agreed. A recent poll of Economist readers asked "What is the deadliest sin?" and, greed ranked number one.

But, surprisingly, although everyone thinks greed is a terrible problem, most people don't think they are greedy. When the BBC conducted a poll on the seven deadly sins (anger, envy, gluttony, greed, lust, pride and sloth), greed was last on the list in answer to two questions: Which sin have you ever committed? and Which sin have you committed in the past month? Plenty of Brits copped to being lazy, proud, envious and angry. But greedy? Seventh out of seven, last on the list. Tim Keller, argues "even though it is clear that the world is filled with greed and materialism, almost no one thinks it is true of them ... Greed hides itself from the victim."

Adapted from Ted Scofield, "Everybody Else's Problem, Pt. 2," Mockingbird blog (7-28-15)