

Masterclass – Freedom

Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹ "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

1. Freedom is always a matter of perspective. What does freedom look like for a primary school child, high school child, parent, Christian?
2. Read Luke 12:13-21. In what ways are the two brothers arguing over their inheritance not free?
3. Why do you think Jesus ducks their request in verse 14?
4. What is Jesus trying to get them to grapple with in verse 15?
5. If abundance of possessions, is not what life consists of, what would Jesus say "life" should consist of?
6. A study of Genesis suggests that we were created to be
 - Loved Creation (Genesis 1:31, 2:7)
 - Creative (Genesis 1:26-27)
 - Enjoying (Genesis 2:9)
 - Caring (Genesis 2:15)
 - Free (Genesis 2:16-17)
 - Interdependent (Genesis 2:18-24)
 - Gentle (Genesis 2:25)
 Which of these resonates with where you would like your life to be going?
7. Read Genesis 2:16-17 and this quote: "The tree of the knowledge of good and evil is simply independence – We teach our children the difference between right and wrong so that they will become independent moral agents – so to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil is simply to choose to live independently." Why should independence be a spiritual big deal?
8. Why is Jesus' parable (Luke 12:16-19) also about independence? What point is Jesus making?
9. What is the shock awaiting the independent person? (Luke 12:20)
10. Quote: *Our souls were created to breathe in God in the same way that our lungs were created to breathe in air. You see in struggling for life we know we have to breathe so we breathe in whatever is at hand but you see, spiritual freedom is breathing in the right air.* What is the right air?
11. Read 2 Corinthians 3:17-18. How are we being made free in this passage?
12. Where in your life would you like more spiritual freedom?