



#DEATHTOSELFIE

THE OBSTACLE OF STUFF.

We live in America. Whether we inherently feel it or not, we live in a rich society. We all have a lot. It's amazing to think about the young man in an internet debate complaining about all the suffering he undergoes in life and excuses himself to check a call on his iPhone. We don't take the time to appreciate what we do have many times or on the flip side, when we do look at what we have, we look way too much.

How many times have we let something else get in the way of God? So often, we're like the rich man who built up his barns so he could have room for even more stuff. We hold and cling to it, often without thinking about what we can do for others. Soon we forget it's even an issue. Thankfully we have a God who loves us enough to open our eyes and give us chance after chance to surrender back to Him.

IN THE BIBLE.

Luke 12:13-21

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; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man

yielded an abundant harvest. 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 my surplus grain. 19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain 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 whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

Matthew 6:19-24

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

QUESTIONS.

- 1.)** Money is not the ultimate stumbling block for everyone. What is it for you that tends to get between you and God?
- 2.)** As Americans, generally wealthier than most of the world, how can we stop money/possessions from being a stumbling block?
- 3.)** What does it look like to surrender to God? What would it look like to live a life of gratitude?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?