



Rising out of the Money Pit

Listen! Here is a scenario that is repeated in America uncountable times each year:

- Unbridled financial debt leads to discouragement, relational conflict, giving up.
- **Tension:** What is the solution to this problem?

Idea: Since life does not consist of what I possess...I must reject the “Bigger Barns Syndrome.” (Luke 12:13-34)

- **Question:** Do we believe that life does not consist of what we possess?

Message A: The “Bigger Barns” strategy...leads to great loss because life does not consist of what we possess.

- **Summary:** The bigger barns approach is centered on making life good and fun and secure and pleasurable and safe and plentiful for ourselves.

Message B: The “Smaller Barns” strategy...leads to great gain because life does not consist of what we possess.

- **Summary:** The smaller barns approach is based on the belief that real life does not consist of what we own—rather real life is found in being rich toward God.

Key question that I have not answered: How do we become rich toward God:

- **Knowing Christ:**
- **Following Christ:**
- **Living like Christ:**

For Instance:

Application:

Walking Papers

Practical helps for walking with Christ this week.

- **Today's Idea:** Since life does not consist of what I possess...I must reject the "Bigger Barns Syndrome." (Luke 12:13-34)

Please take some time each day this week for "spiritual recalibration" by thinking through the following ideas and questions related to having "eternity in our hearts:"

- **Today:** Do you see ways in your life in which you are "building bigger barns?"
- **Monday:** Are there ways in which you have defined your life by the things that you possess?
- **Tuesday:** What would you need to do in order to be "richer toward God?"
- **Wednesday:** Do you think that you believe, at the deepest levels that "life does not consist of what we possess?"
- **Thursday:** What would need to change in your life in order to be more other-focused in the use of your finances and possessions?
- **Friday:** Make a thorough and honest and searching inventory of your life to see if you find, aided by the Holy Spirit, any greed. If you find it confess it.
- **Saturday:** What shape is your life in related to "the speed of your life" and the disease of "hurry sickness?"