

SELF

LUKE

12:16-21

Luke 12:15-21

And he said to them, "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The man in the parable thought only of himself.
In our lesson text, the words “I” and “my” are used ten
different times.

I read somewhere that 80% of all our problems
revolve around self.

Perhaps one of the worst words in the English
language is “self”.

Not all self words are bad and we going to discuss
them next Sunday evening.

For tonight let’s talk about some self words that we
must rid our lives of.

Self-Conceited

This is an exaggerated estimate of one's own abilities or power.

If we could buy some people for they are worth and sell them for what they think they are worth we could make a fortune.

Galatians 6:3

For if any one thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

Proverbs 6:16-17

These six things the Lord hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

A proud look.

I John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Luke 14:11

For every one who exalts himself will be humbled,
and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

I Peter 5:5-6

Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that in due time he may exalt you.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Self-Indulgent

This is giving free course to one's own passions, or desires and inclinations.

This was the sin of Demas.

II Timothy 4:10

For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.

This person is living their life for pleasure.

Hebrews 11:24-25

By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin.

Living for pleasure, giving into our desires causes sin.

James 1:13-15

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted with evil and he himself tempts no one; but each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown brings forth death.

I Timothy 5:6

Whereas she who is self-indulgent is dead even while she lives.

This person does not pray “Thy will be done,” but “my will be done.”

The way we fight this sin by crucifying ourselves.

Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Galatians 5:24

And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Self-Righteous

Those who are righteous in their own eyes.

Luke 18:9-14

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men extortionist, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Many will be surprised on the Day of Judgment.

Matthew 7:2-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Self-Willed

One who is obstinate, stubborn, set on one's own way.

This was the sin of:

Cain—Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 11:4

Nadab and Abihu—Leviticus 10:1-2

Jonah—Jonah 1:1-2

"Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me." But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

King Saul—I Samuel 15:16

Then Samuel said to Saul, "Be quiet! And I will tell you what the Lord said to me last night." And he said to him, "Speak on." So Samuel said, "When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the Lord anoint you king over Israel. Now the Lord sent you on a mission, and said, 'Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the Lord?"

And Saul said to Samuel, "But I have obeyed the voice of the Lord, and gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal." Then Samuel said: "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."

Notice verse 21, "The Lord your God."

The only safe way is the Lord's way.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

Jeremiah 10:23

O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

II John 9

Any one who goes ahead and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God; he who abides in the doctrine has both the Father and the Son.

Self-Centered

This means absorbed in one's self.

There are some who are so self-centered that they refuse to go to a funeral service because they are not the corpse about whom the nice things are being said.

Self centered people are always unhappy

In the story of "The Good Samaritan," found in Luke 10:30-37, the priest and the Levite were too self-centered to help the needy person.

Diotrephes was self-centered.

III John 9-10

I have written something to the church; but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge my authority. So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, unjustly accusing us with wicked words. And not content with that, he refuses himself to welcome the brethren, and also stops those who want to welcome them and puts them out of the church.

Perhaps self-centeredness could explain King Saul.

He thought what he wanted to do was more important than what God had said to do.

Remember, what true JOY is:

J Jesus First

O Others second

Y Yourself last.

Mathew 22:36-40

"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Self-Complacent

These are the people who are easily satisfied or pleased, self-contented.

This describes the church at Sardis and Laodicea.

Revelation 3:1-3

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.

Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.

Revelation 3:14-17

"And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, `These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of My mouth. Because you say, `I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked

When people are self-complacent in their
Christianity, they:

Lack enthusiasm for the Lord's work.

Become indifferent to the Lord's work.

This is not what God had in mind.

We should be excited about the Lord's work.

There are two songs in our songbook:

Number 700—To The Work

Number 297—I Want To Be A Worker For The Lord

These song are meant to get us excited for the
Lord's work.

John 9:4

We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Colossians 3:23-24

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

There is a reward to be had for those who faithfully serve the Lord.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Revelation 2:10

Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

There is no reward for those who are:

Self-Conceited.

Self-Indulgent.

Self-Righteous.

Self-Willed.

Self-Centered.

Self-Complacent.

Colossians 3:25

For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

Galatians 6:7-9

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not lose heart.

Will you receive the reward or have to pay the consequences?

It all depends on what you sow.