

Refrigerator Notes 31 July 2016
My, My, My and I, I, I (It's All About Me)
Luke 12:1-21

1. There are many people who live their lives in a desperate search for human approval and or applause
2. Is there anyone here this morning who wants to be rich?
3. There is no sin in being rich, but it's what you do with the wealth that could determine if you have sinned
4. To have all the money in the world is not what it is cracked up to be. Don't you know that the rich live in fear of becoming poor, and losing their fortune
5. In light of these foolish escapades of the rich and famous, our rich fool in Jesus' parable this morning does not seem foolish at all — after all, he is only securing his future it seems?
6. Jesus tells the story of a rich man, who is already rich, but now he enjoys a bumper crop. Jesus gives the farmer no credit for the increased crop. He merely says "the land ... produced abundantly."
7. Using this creative storytelling, Jesus lets us overhear the man's thoughts (did you know that our thoughts can get us in trouble with God)
8. The farmer debates with himself, he is talking to himself. "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?"
9. We find wonderful insights in this little soliloquy that caution us about the personal pronouns. I, me and my!
10. First, notice the frequency of the possessive pronoun in his thoughts - my crops, my barns, my grain, my goods, and finally my soul
11. But his soul does not belong to him?
12. There is no one else in the story. The man isn't talking to God, but in the end God intervenes in his thoughts
13. Here in this parable, we find a lonely selfish man, preoccupied with his **possessions**
14. The thought of him giving to another person, who may be in need, has never crossed his mind. The thought of him sharing his wealth or even investing in worthy projects never dawns on him. Greed has eaten his soul away and any compassion he may have once had, has faded into oblivion
15. We too are sometimes only interested in pleasuring ourselves and collecting possessions, making our possessions idols
16. The word 'fool' is not a word that's used lightly in Scripture. The foolish person is always talked about in contrast to the person who exercises the very wisdom of God
17. Jesus didn't believe that wealth or possessions were evil in and of themselves and neither are the people who have them. Jesus simply knew that wealth and possessions offer us a greater temptation, to put our faith and trust in stuff, rather than in God
18. It is Jesus, in His not so gentle way, reminding us that we can't count on the future, we can't live in the future. We only have the present moment to live
19. The important question is, "What gives our life meaning now?" In Luke 9:25, Jesus puts the matter this way, "What does it profit a man, if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit their soul" And what makes us Christians different from everybody else is not that we don't have savings accounts, it's that the true saving in our lives is the salvation of a God, who died for the love of us. And our life should consist of something more, than what we can store up on earth — your soul is all that you get to take to heaven or not!