

Milo story

Narcissistic Personality Disorder:

- **An unreasonably high sense of their own importance.**
- **They need and seek too much attention and want people to admire them.**

Let's be honest

Every puppy

And every toddler you've ever met

Fits this definition

How many of you have had a toddler in your house

In the last five years?

You know

It's because they think

That the world revolves around them

That's what a narcissist is

That everything in this life

Is for their enjoyment

By the way, if you're currently raising a toddler

#1 – It gets easier

#2 – If you don't break them of that

Not only will all their school teachers

Hate you

But they'll be miserable

Later in life

Because sometimes these folks

Do sneak into adulthood

They never really grow up

Because they still think the world

Revolves around them

Their bodies grow to the point

We can't keep them in preschool

But they're still toddlers at heart

Because they've never grown up

Now, what does this have to do

With the series we're in?

What does this have to do

With being *spiritually* hangry?

I'll show you

I promise

But not yet

So, if I don't make it clear

You can come find me afterwards, ok?

Turn in your Bible to Luke 12

Page 711

Read Luke 12:13-15a

Then He said to "them"

Do you see that?

He uses this conversation with the individual

As an opportunity to teach the crowd

And us

About a very important topic

Read Luke 12:15

He senses that the guy in the crowd

Was fighting over the inheritance

Not because he wanted grandma's knickknacks

Or papaw's pocket knives

But because they were

Being tempted by greed

If we're honest

We're all being tempted by greed

I certainly am

Read Luke 12:16-17

So, the guy in the crowd

Is getting a little extra

The inheritance

We don't know if it

Was a big extra

Or a little extra

I don't guess it matters

It was extra

So, Jesus tells a story

About a farmer who gets extra

Read Luke 12:18-20a

But God said to him, "You conscientious financial planner!"

Wait a minute

That's what I wrote in my Bible
It doesn't say that
God said to him, 'You fool!'

We don't naturally
Get the shock factor here
But the crowd would have been shocked

Because the crowd would have expected
God to commend this man
For his financial success

Because we would
Commend this man
For his financial success

But instead, God calls him a fool
Let's read on

Read Luke 12:20-21

This man was a narcissist
Because he thought
All of his extra
Was for his... disposal
All of his possessions

Were for his disposal

And like any narcissist

You've ever met

He's going to be miserable

Until he breaks himself

Of this nasty mindset

God says he's a fool

Because God knows

That he's run out of time

He's spent his whole life

Never breaking himself

Of this nasty mindset

And now he's in his last days

And he's still wanting more

He's still thinking

Only... of himself

I think we could

Summarize Jesus' sentiment here

This way:

"It is foolish to assume that all you have is only for you." - Jesus

"It is foolish to assume that all you have is only for you."

Jesus says

This... is how it will be

How's that?

Foolish

Selfish

Narcissistic

This is how it will be

With whoever stores up things for themselves

Which is never called wrong in this passage

But who only stores up things for themselves

But is not rich towards God

"It is foolish to assume that all you have is only for you." - Jesus

I had you turn to this passage:

#1 – because I wanted you to see it for yourself

Pastors sometimes pull things out of context

But #2 – I wanted you to notice

What's next

"Then" – verse 22

Then, Jesus said to His disciples

"Therefore, I tell you"

"Do not worry"

Do you see that?

This is a backwards principle

In God's economy

Living life

As if everything you have is only for you

Actually leads to more worry

Living life

With openhanded generosity

Actually is an antidote for worry

And that makes sense

Because if everything is about me

Then that means

All the weight

All the pressure

All the responsibility

Is also all mine to carry

But if I'm living life

Believing God

When He says

He'll provide for me

Do you see that in verse 24

There in Luke 12?

If I'm believing God

When He says

He'll provide for me

Then I don't carry all the weight

I don't feel all the pressure

I don't own all the responsibility

He carries it

With me

I'm not alone

This open-handed generosity

Is huge in Scripture

And I would suggest to you

If you don't live this way

You'll pay a price for your greed

And you know this to be true...

I believe one of the greatest

Disasters

In church history

Is the prosperity Gospel movement

Where pastors tell their desperate audience

That God wants them to be rich

And He'll make them rich

If they'll give him money

And then he flies off in his private jet

To his next desperate audience

Why do I say that's one of the church's greatest disasters?

Not because of those guys

God will take care of them

It's a disaster

Because that makes the rest of us

Shy away from clear Biblical teaching

And when we shy away from clear Biblical teaching

On any topic

We get hangry congregations

Because they're not living

By God's standards

Let me just give you

A taste of this

1 Timothy 6:5b – (False teachers) think that Godliness is a means to financial gain.

So that's not true

Let's settle that off the top

And anybody who tells you that

Apparently is a false teacher

But the Bible has lots to say

About our generosity

And God's response

To that generosity

Matthew 6:19-21 - Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

OK – so lay-up treasure in Heaven

Don't store it all here

That keeps our heart right

OK – so how do I do that?

I'm glad you asked:

1 Timothy 6:17-18 - Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

We store up treasures in Heaven

By using our money to do good... here

Being rich

Not just according to our banker

But according to our good deeds

Living generously

Being willing to share

And the verse continues

By saying if we'll do that

1 Timothy 6:19 - In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

So, we'll prepare for up there

But we'll also take hold of real life here

This topic fits in the series

If we're not living generously

With what God has given us

We run a terrible risk

Of being *spiritually* hangry

It not only hurts others

Because we kept all the money God gave us for ourselves

But it hurts us

Because we kept all the money God gave us for ourselves

And Jesus told us it's foolish to assume that all you have is only for you.

Let me settle something here

That you probably already know

But I want to make it clear

God... does not need... our money

God doesn't need our money

Let me convince you:

The Bible says that God made every diamond

In every mine

And on every hand

He could create more

God crafted all of the gold and silver and platinum

That we've ever dug out of the ground

He created every drop of oil

That we've ever burned

The new technology we've not discovered yet?

God made that too

He doesn't need our money

But the Bible talks about money a lot

A whole lot

And some pastors use that for self-serving reasons

And God hates that

And sometimes churches talking about money offends people

And keeps them from connecting with Him

And God hates that

So, if God doesn't need our money

And yet the Bible talking so much about money causes problems

That God hates

Why does He do it?

He was either just blindsided by all of that risk

Or He talks about it a lot

For a different reason than we assume

What if God

Using our analogy here

What if God talks about it

Because He doesn't want

Money to make us hangry?

I think that's it

Let me show you

Another very specific place:

Turn over to 2 Corinthians 8

Page 791

I could have put in on the screen

But I want you to know

I'm not taking it out of context

In these Bibles

The heading for 2 Corinthians 8 says:

"The collection for the Lord's people"

Do you see that?

Your heading may say something a little different

Scholars have added those headings over the years

To make it easy to follow along

But it labels it that

Because God inspired Paul

To ask the people

To give financially

To help out other people who were in need

OK?

Then – on the next page

Starting in verse 16

The heading says

“Titus sent to Receive the Collection”

Do you see that?

So, Paul tells them to begin collecting money

And then he says

Without waiting for an answer

It’s a letter

Oh, by the way, I’m sending Titus for the money

This has a little bit of a mafia feel to it

Then in chapter 9

He continues talking about Titus coming to get the money

And then in verse 6

He changes topics completely

In verse 6

He begins encouraging them... to be... generous

Big shift

The Bible talks about money... a lot

Look there with me

What it says in 2 Corinthians 9:6

All that was context:

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6

This is like the sowing and reaping

Analogy from last week

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7

So, this shouldn't come from pressure

Or guilt

God wants us to give cheerfully

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8-11

This is a little complicated

So, let's draw it out

We've got us and God

Right?

And He provides for all of our needs

Whether we do the right thing or not

Jesus said He sends the rain

On the righteous and unrighteous

And we cheerfully give some money to the church

The family of God

And together, we help another person

Maybe help them with something tangible like food

Maybe help them with something spiritual like teaching or counseling or prayer

But the church helps another person

And when they do

That person says thanks to God

And that person's heart, in their prayers

Goes out to the donor

Even though they don't know who gave what

Do you see that?

This cycle

Is powerful for the recipient...

But this cycle is also powerful for the giver...

This cycle is powerful for the recipient

It's powerful for the giver

So how much should we give away?

Well, we just read

That we should give what we've decided in our heart to give

Not reluctantly

Not under compulsion

But if this cycle is designed to not only help them

And there's a lot of needs

But to help us

How much do we need to give?

The reality

The average Christian... in America

Look at study after study
The average American Christian
Spends about 98% of their income
On themselves
Their needs
Their wants
Their family

And the average American Christian
Is also more hangry then they'd care to admit

So how much do we need to give away?

We need a standard
For such a subjective, personal conversation

The Scriptural mandate
That Jesus would have lived by
As a 1st Century Jew
Was 10% of His income

Jesus would have not only lived by that standard
He endorsed it in Matthew 23
And He never rejected elsewhere

I don't think the tithe is a law now

But I think it's *still* the right standard

It's still the standard Amy & I live by

Because none of us look in the mirror

And say, "I'm a greedy narcissist."

No one says that

We all agree with generosity

We all think it's a good thing

We all look for ways to contribute to society

Now and then

To make things better

But we're all tempted by greed

I'm tempted by greed

So, if we wonder

How our generosity

Compares with the standard of Jesus

We should consider the tithe

Amy & I used to live

In a wealthy suburb near Indianapolis
And there was a gentleman in that town
Who was a CEO of a fortune 100 company
And he commuted to his office
By helicopter

And he justified it
It was actually cost effective for him
Because his salary was \$1m

Per week

Let me just let that sink in a second
\$1m / week

And I used to think
What if he would give me like *one day* of his salary?

Do you ever do that?

I read online
That Disney paid Patrick Mahomes
\$5m for saying he was going to Disney
After they won the super bowl

\$5m!?!

What would you do if he gave you that?

Let's go up a notch:

Amy & I have a weird tradition

When the power ball gets up to an insane number

We sometimes buy a ticket

I know – don't judge me

I don't have a problem

We don't buy it unless it gets way up there

Because we're not gonna waste our time

For a \$100m or something

But if its big enough to affect our lifestyle...

And sometimes we talk about

What would we do if we won?

Like \$800m?

Do you ever do that?

Let's go up... one more time

What would you do if you had

All of God's money

Every diamond

Every ounce of gold, silver, platinum that's ever been mined

Every drop of oil

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it

Psalms says

What would you do with that?

I don't know

But I can tell you what I wouldn't do

I wouldn't be coming to Spring Hill, TN

Hat in hand

Begging me for a couple bucks from me

He doesn't need my money

But as a good Father

He knows that if He lets us grow up

Believing it's all about me

We'll become a greedy narcissist

And like any greedy narcissist

We'll be selfish

And miserable

And frantically searching for purpose

And He wants more for us than that

And we want more out of our life than that

And as a pastor

Because I so desperately want more for you

Then I ever want from you

I'm willing to have this awkward conversation

To get ignored in the lobby

To answer a few concerned emails

Because the pathway to a fulfilled life

Is worth it

I said Jesus lived by the tithe

And that's true

But Jesus did more...