

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

December 9, 2013

Selfishness

PSALM 119:36 NIV – (36) Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.

Once, there was a man who was a supervisor at a company. His desire was to be the head manager and he would do anything to get the position. He did not exhibit a positive attitude and used every avenue available for the position he coveted. He treated his fellow employees without regard; when sick, he showed them no concern and if one of their loved ones passed on to glory he showed no remorse. His focus was only on the job and making numbers to satisfy the executives with his only goal to ultimately obtain the managerial position. He talked to his employees without respect. He showed no regard for those that were his elders. "Just do your job or else!" he would routinely say. Because of this attitude, he was never promoted, yet he refused to quit. Instead, he continued with the same strategy, not accepting that those same strategies are what kept him from succeeding.

LUKE 12:15-20 NKJV - (15) And He said to them, "*Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.*" **(16)** Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. **(17)** And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' **(18)** So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. **(19)** And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" **(20)** But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

Well, as retirement approached, he bragged about all that he would do - just sit, eat, be merry and do nothing! "I have saved enough money to do whatever I want", he was heard to say to anyone that would listen. After years without success, a direct result of his attitude and his lack of concern for others, he died. On his day of judgment before God, he spoke to Him, sharing how he did this and how he did that. But, all of his rewards were thrown in the fire! *Why???* **Selfishness.** People had made efforts to share God's truths with him while he lived on Earth. His arrogance refused to allow him to hear their words.

Selfishness is an attitude...an attitude of being concerned with one's own interests above the interests of others. However, the Bible commands us to "do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

SCRIPTURE READING

PROVERBS 18:1

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A self-centered life will have a tendency to confuse its selfish desire with God's will..

