TITLE: BEING PREPARED

TEXT: Luke 12:16-21; 1st Tim. 6:10; Matthew 6:19-21,24

INTRODUCTION: How many of you guys here this morning were boys scouts?

Remember the Boy Scout motto? Be prepared!

Part of Boy Scout training is to teach you to be prepared!

If you are going out into the wilderness be prepared to go out into the wilderness. You prepare to go on a wilderness trip by mentally going on the trip before you physically go on it.... You think through the adventure and try to come up with all the possible scenarios that you might encounter and then prepare for it.

I might get turned around and lost in the timber---I'll need a compass. I may need to build a fire--I'll need matches.

It may rain--I'll need a poncho & extra socks..

To be prepared for any given situation we need to first think it through before we actually do it...

You ladies that just had thanksgiving dinners in your homes most likely prepared for it...

You sat down and prepared the menu beforehand... If it is a family gathering you may sit down ahead of time and assign who is to bring what...

Well, I will cook the turkey and make the dressing and mashed potatoes and gravy... Mom can bring the pumpkin pie, Fred can bring the cranberries, Sue can make the jello....

Anything that is important to us we will prepare for.

Otherwise when we sit down at the Thanksgiving table we may end up with 12 bowls of jello if no one prepared ahead of time and everyone ends up bringing the same thing...

In one’s life, being prepared is a very important quality to possess....

It is important in our physical life and it is important in our Spiritual life.

Jesus tells a parable about the importance of being prepared...

**Luke 12:16 (NIV) And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop.**

**17 He thought to himself, `What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'**

**18 "Then he said, `This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.**

**19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '**

This is a perfect example of the process of being prepared that I have just talked about.....

First the rich man sees that he is going to have a good crop...So good that he knows that his barns will not hold the harvest..... So what does he do? He prepares for the harvest.

He tears down his small barns and builds bigger ones. He builds barns that will be large enough to hold all his grain and his goods....

**18 "Then he said, `This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.**

**19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '**

Now if we left off right here we might conclude that this was a man who knew how to be prepared, to think a situation through and be prepared for it.

He was a good boy scout-- Or was he?

Lets read on....

**20 "But God said to him, `You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'**

**21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."**

The rich man in this parable fell into a trap that many of us sometimes fall into... A short or near sighted preparation.

We prepare for the things that pertain to this life...but may ignore to prepare for things that pertain to the next life....

Many buy insurance so that they can be prepared in the event of an emergency...

Many may set up college funds when their children are born to be prepared for their college education's...

Many may set up Ira's to be prepared for their retirement....

Many will place great importance of being prepared for things in this life but will largely ignore the importance of being prepared for the next life.

This is what we see happens in the life of this rich man in Jesus's parable.

**18 "Then he said, `This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.**

**19 And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '**

**20 "But God said to him, `You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'**

**21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."**

Jesus is not condemning this man for his being prepared in this life.

He is condemning him for not being prepared for the next life.

**21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."**

The problem is not being prepared for this life; the problem is when we ignore preparation for the next life.

God has given us, in His Word, a book of preparation. A Book that tells us how to be prepared! How to be prepared to successfully and faithfully and fruitfully live this life, and how to be prepared for the time when we meet God, face to face, in the next life. How to prepare ourselves for Heaven.

The man in Jesus parable was consumed by storing up treasure for himself.

Just look at all the personal pronouns that are used..

**Luke 12:18 (NIV) "Then he said, `This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.**

**19 And I'll say to myself, " ( I ) have plenty of good things laid up for many years. (I can )Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '**

All the preparation he did was for his pleasure in this life..

**Luke 12:20 (NIV) "But God said to him, `You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'**

**Fool= 878 aphron {af'-rone}**

**1) without reason, senseless, foolish, stupid**

**acting rashly.**

The picture that we get of this rich man is one of selfishness and greed and of someone who was shortsighted in the things of God and eternity.

Reminds me of old saying...

"all things done on earth will pass--only what's done for Christ will last"

The Word of God has this to say to us, as believers, about how we are to prepare ourselves for the day when we leave this world to meet our creator..

**Matt 6:19 (NIV) "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.**

**20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

**21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Harold L. Fickett, Jr., wrote about a wealthy businessman who on his deathbed was filled with deep remorse. When his pastor called, he opened his heart and shared the burden he was carrying. He said that 10 years earlier he had been given the opportunity to teach a Sunday school class of 9-year-old boys. Thinking he didn't have the time, he declined the offer. Now, however, deeply conscious that his life would soon be over, he confessed to the pastor that his most painful regret was that he had missed such a golden opportunity to serve the Lord by investing his life in the lives of those 9-year-olds. He estimated that at least 100 boys would have passed through that class. "My investments in stocks and bonds will stay behind when I leave," he declared. "What a fool I have been."

How often do we get so consumed by making preparations for this life that we ignore preparing for the next one?

How often do we pass up opportunities God may give us to build our store of heavenly treasure, because we are so busy trying to store up for ourselves earthly treasures?

Example: for over 20 years I sought the treasure of this world---money

In my Job I worked 50-60 hours week... As I Advanced within the company I made more money, I bought new cars, had a nice house filled with things (gadgets).

(I love gadgets) (I can't watch home shopping network)

It is one thing to work to earn a living and to provide for our family...it’s another thing to allow money to become an idol, something that we place more importance on then we do our relationship with God.

**1Tim 6:10 (NIV) For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**

We need to understand something here.. Money is not in itself evil! It is an inanimate object, and it is a convenient and necessary thing in our society, as it was in the days of Jesus.

This Scripture is not saying that money is evil, it is saying that the love of it, coveting it, making it the supreme thing of importance in our life, thus making it an idol, a god, is evil…

**Matt 6:24 (NIV) "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.**

Again, this isn't saying anything against money; it is saying that is wrong and dangerous to covet, to love money. Love it to the place that it starts to distract us from God.

Jesus, in telling us how to prepare for Heaven says....

**Matt 6:19 (NIV) "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.**

It is important to look at two words that Jesus chooses to use here... **{thay-sow-rid'-zo}** Storeup and **{thay-sow-ros'}** treasure.

**2343 thesaurizo {thay-sow-rid'-zo}**

**1) to gather and lay up, to heap up, store up**

**1a) to accumulate riches**

**1b) to keep in reserve**

**2344 thesauros {thay-sow-ros'}**

**1) the place in which good and precious things are collected and laid up**

**1a) a casket, coffer, or other receptacle, in which valuables are kept**

**1b) a treasury, storehouse, repository, magazine**

Jesus isn't talking about things of necessity, nor do I believe even things of comfort, he is talking about an overabundance, hoarding more then what is needed**,**

stockpiling, having what is needed yet craving for more and more.....

Do not store up for yourselves treasure on earth where moth and rust destroy and where thieves can break in and steal...

Everything that we seem to so often place so much importance on in this life will one day pass away.

It is all perishable; it will not last forever...

And even the things that may last a long time are subject to being lost in an instant!

There is really no security in things we possess.

And what we do manage to hold on to through life will be separated from all of us at death!

Fortune magazine quotes a comment made by billionaire H. Ross Perot: "Guys, just remember, if you get real lucky, if you make a lot of money, if you go out and buy a lot of stuff--it's gonna break. You got your biggest, fanciest mansion in the world. It has air conditioning. It's got a pool. Just think of all the pumps that are going to go out. Or go to a yacht basin any place in the world. Nobody is smiling, and I'll tell you why. Something broke that morning. The generator's out; the microwave oven doesn't work. ... Things just don't mean happiness."

**20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

**21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

What Jesus is saying is be prepared! Be prepared for heaven! Make heaven your depository, your coffer where you store your treasure!

Your heart will be on the place where your treasure is stored so make sure that you have a treasure stored in heaven!

We open our heavenly account with the deposit of ourselves, when we come to Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin and ask Him to come into our heart, be the Lord of our life, our account in heaven is opened....

Then everything that we do for Christ and everything that we allow Him to do through us while we are here on this earth becomes a treasure that is stored up in our heavenly account.

There is a saying that goes...

Money will buy a bed; but not sleep;

Books but not brains; -----food but not appetite;

Finery but not beauty; ----a house but not a home;

Medicine but not health; ---luxuries but not culture;

Amusements but not happiness; --- religion but not salvation;

Money will buy a passport to everywhere but

Heaven.

There is a story is told of a nobleman who died very suddenly. Immediately his personal servant ran to tell the other servants of the household that their master was dead. He asked with gravity, where has he gone? The servants replied, Why, to Heaven, to be sure. No, said the man, I am certain he has not gone to heaven.

Somewhat surprised, the others asked him how he knew their master had not gone to heaven. The man replied, because heaven is a long way off, and I have never known my master to take a long trip in his life but what he talked of it beforehand and made thorough preparations for it. And I never heard him say a word about this journey, nor ever saw him getting ready for it.

Jesus said:

**Where your treasure is there your heart will be also!**

Where is your heart this morning? Is it on Heaven?

Are you looking forward to being with Jesus?

Are you anxious to hear Him say to you,

`Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

These words will only be heard by those who are prepared to hear them…

Are you prepared? Prepared for that day when you will stand before Him to give an account of the life that He has blessed you with?

Are you storing up for yourselves the treasure of heaven? The treasure of a life that has been committed to God, yielded to Him to do His good, pleasing and perfect will.

The most important preparation that we can make in this life is being prepared for death. Are you prepared for that day when it comes to greet you?

The only way to be prepared then is to know Jesus now…Not just know of Him or about Him but know Him personally by having allowed Him to become the Lord and Savior of your life.

Do you know Him this morning?