

What is one of the most powerful forces that can destroy any family? Greed. It really doesn't matter how little or how much you have because you can still fall victim to the powers of greed. There is something inside of us that can cause us to want more and the more doesn't matter.

In this particular passage, the man was crops that would guarantee a good retirement. The rich man had plenty to live on, but he wanted more. He was not satisfied with what he had and made plans to get more.

I have heard way too many stories about people who had lived like this. They wanted more and more stuff or wealth and were always looking for ways to get more. It seemed like they could never be at peace with what they had. They lived just like this rich man and when they died, they still died and could not take any of their stuff with them.

It is here that I would usually share some examples about this type of mentality and I have even shared stories of my family because every family can be affected by this greed.

But today, I want to take a little different approach. Heidi and I were in Colorado a few weeks ago for vacation and we really only had one thing planned that we wanted to do. One of our favorite professors from seminary lives in Loveland and so I called him to see if we could stop and see him.

He was ecstatic that we had called and we set Monday as the day for the visit. Frank told me that he was just diagnosed with leukemia and had just started treatments. The doc was very optimistic about everything and had told Frank that the treatments would last two months and then he would be done.

We had a great visit with Frank. As we caught up with each other, he shared that one of the things he was working on was downsizing. He was getting rid of stuff so that his family would not have to deal with it. Instead of getting more stuff, Frank was getting rid of it.

This past Monday, Frank died. All the way to the end of his life, Frank knew what the true riches were. He did not put his trust in material things because he was working to get rid of it. Instead, Frank put his trust in God. He knew that his salvation was in Christ Jesus. And on Monday, his health was restored as he entered heaven.

Frank was no fool. He did not fight or scheme to get more stuff but instead was satisfied with what he had. And at the end of his life, Frank was trying to get rid of stuff instead of acquiring more.

In seminary, Frank had a unique way of making points or teaching us about the Old Testament. And even after his death, he is still teaching about where to put your trust when our world is telling us to get more.

We are rich because of our belief in God. There is no greater treasure than that. When our treasure is God as opposed to material things, then we will not end up as the rich man. Instead, we will be rich in Christ Jesus as we live for eternity with the one who gave up everything just for us.