

# Guard Your Heart

Lead Like Jesus : Week 6 of 8 : MANUP.co

***Leadership is INFLUENCE  
and EVERYBODY has influence.***

**Q:** What's your # 1 Job as a Leader?

*Protect, Provide, Direct, Manage, etc...*

**TRUTH:** *Your # 1 Job as a Leader is to  
Guard Your Heart.*

## **Proverbs 4:23**

Above all else, guard your heart,  
for everything you do flows from it.

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## **Luke 12 - Parable of the Rich Fool**

<sup>13</sup> Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."

<sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" <sup>15</sup> Then he said,

*"Beware! Guard against every kind of greed.  
Life is not measured by how much you own."*

*Beware = "to stare at, to pay attention, to be aware of."*

*Guard = "to protect from, to avoid, to stay away from."*

## **3 Enemies of the Heart:**

- **Pride:** *"It's all because of me."*
- **Worry:** *"It's all up to me."*
- **Greed:** *"It's all for me."*

## 1. Fight Pride with Gratefulness.

### Luke 12

<sup>16</sup> Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. <sup>17</sup> He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ <sup>18</sup> Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.

<sup>19</sup> And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!” <sup>20-21</sup> “But God said to him,

*‘You fool! You will die this very night.*

*Then who will get everything you worked for?’*

*“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”*

### The Truth about Pride.

- Pride says, “*It’s all because of me.*”
- Pride gives you a false sense of reality.
- You can’t be prideful and grateful at the same time.

***GRATEFULNESS*** is giving God  
the glory and others the credit.

## 2. Fight Worry with Faithfulness.

### Luke 12

<sup>22</sup> Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life - whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. <sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! <sup>25</sup> Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? <sup>26</sup> And if worry can’t accomplish a little thing like that, what’s the use of worrying over bigger things? <sup>27</sup> “Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not

dressed as beautifully as they are. <sup>28</sup> And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? <sup>29</sup> “And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. <sup>30</sup> These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs.

<sup>31</sup> *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.*

### **The Truth about Worry.**

- Worry says, “It’s all up to me.”
- Worry assumes that God is absent.
- Worry consumes you and distracts you.

**FAITHFULNESS** is doing what you can and trusting God with what you can’t.

## **3. Fight Greed with Generosity.**

### **Luke 12**

<sup>32</sup> “So don’t be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom. <sup>33</sup> “Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. <sup>34</sup> Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

### **The Truth about Greed.**

- Greed says, “It’s all for me.”
- Greed makes you blind to those around you.
- The only way to defeat greed is with generosity.

**GENEROSITY** is trading what you can’t keep for something you can’t lose.

# Questions.

**Q:** Which one of these 3 do you struggle with the most? PRIDE - WORRY - GREED

**Q:** List 3 things you can be **grateful for** right now?

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**Q:** Who can you **thank today** for helping you get where you are in life?

**Q:** What's one thing you're tempted to quit, but God wants you to **be faithful**?

**Q:** What's something you're holding onto that God wants you to **give away**?

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**Prayer:** Father God, help me "*Be on Guard*" today for the enemies of pride, worry, and greed. Help me to see them for what they are - a powerful and destructive enemy that wants to steal my leadership from me and hurt those around me. With your help, I will defeat them with **Gratefulness, Faithfulness,** and **Generosity**. In the power of Jesus name, Amen.