



## **‘BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR’**

**Luke 18:18 – 23**

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The gift giving and receiving madness has come and gone for another year. Families, friends, and fun have all given us joy and a sense of wholeness. The holiday season, for some reason, tends to make people a little more pleasant, more compassionate, yes even more loving. I agree that it would be wonderful if this sense of “love thy neighbor” could permeate the entire year. However, I have noticed that there is an attitude change sometime during and after gifts have been opened.

People had an idea or ideas of what they wanted to receive. Some had hinted as to what they wanted, while others came right out and asked for what they wanted. When the desired gift was not received, the loving countenance seems to be dampened and a different glow appears on the face of the person who made the request.

This led me to the subject title, “Be Careful What You Ask For.” These words are so easily rolled off our lips, but do we really know what we want? We must first consider what we do not have and that becomes rather complex because the field of choices is so vast.

In today’s very familiar text, the rich young ruler asked Jesus, “...what must I do to have eternal life?” A great request, but was that what he really wanted? We pray to God regularly asking for all sorts of things we feel we need or want and when we get them we are still not satisfied. Did you get what you wanted for Christmas? What do you ask God for in your prayers? Do you think and pray before you ask? Today we will explore, in the Bible, several people who were neither thoughtful nor careful before they asked God. God answered their prayers just as He answers ours, but often we are not pleased with what He gives us.

In the New Year, we must learn to be careful for what we pray.

*Pastor Gerald L. Durley*