



"The Parable of the Rich Fool"

Luke 12:13-21

Our scriptures today first address covetousness as Jesus denounces greed, and secondly Jesus teaches through a parable that earthly possessions are foolish compared to a rich relationship with God.

- Jesus talks a lot about money. Sixteen of His thirty-eight parables concern handling resources and possessions. Jesus emphasizes money so much because the priority a person places on money impacts their relationship with God. **Matthew 6:24**

- How you handle money and resources tends to reveal a few things about you:

1. Your priorities – **1 Timothy 6:6-10**
2. Where you put your trust – **Matthew 6:31-33 & Philippians 4:17-19**
3. Your faithfulness – **Proverbs 3:9 & Luke 16:10-11**
4. Your sense of gratitude – **1 Chronicles 29:14 & 2 Chronicles 9:11-12**
5. Your focus – **Matthew 6:19-21**

- Where is your treasure? **Revelation 21:3-4**

- We don't have any idea what true joy is. True joy is not in our earthly belongings, but it is in the presence of God. So why do we hold so tightly to the things of the world?

- You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give.

Luke 12:13-15 – Now let's get to the first set of scriptures we are studying today. Jesus is traveling from Galilee to Judea when a crowd of many thousands gather to hear Him teach. Jesus is speaking with His disciples for several verses before addressing the crowd.

- **Luke 12:13:** *¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."*
A man shouts from the crowd interrupting Jesus' conversation.

- The man asks Jesus to handle a dispute on inheritance because his older brother received a double portion as seen in **Deuteronomy 21:17**. It looks like he wanted half the inheritance instead of a third.

- The man didn't need legal help, but a correct attitude towards possessions.

- Jesus calls out the man's real motives as He does for us as we stand before Him in prayer.

- **Luke 12:14:** *¹⁴Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"*

- Jesus lets the man know He has more important things, such as eternal salvation, to deal with rather than his covetousness towards his brother.

- **Luke 12:15:** *¹⁵Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."*

- Jesus is no longer addressing just the man, but the entire crowd.

- The Greek word for greed "pleonexia" literally conveys the thirst for having more. Our wealth doesn't determine our worth.

- Covetousness or greed can get a stranglehold on you.

- Providing for our family's needs is not wrong, but we shouldn't neglect investing our time, efforts, and resources in becoming "rich towards God".

- As Christians we are charged with pursuing His kingdom and righteousness above all else.

Matthew 6:33 shows Jesus narrowing our focus to God's kingdom and righteousness.

- Each of us should take heed of Jesus' warnings about greed. The "good life" isn't about possessions.
- In **Ecclesiastes 2:10-11** the author discovered the pleasures of the world will never truly satisfy.
- The only true satisfaction is found in an abundant relationship with God.

Luke 12:16-19 – Now we go to the second set of today's text as Jesus tells the crowd a parable.

- **Psalms 24:1** – Whose stuff is it?

- **Luke 12:18** – ¹⁸ *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. What are we doing with our surplus?*

- **Mark 12:41-44** – Giving a small part of our surplus vs "sacrificial giving".

- **1 Timothy 6:7-10** – Do you have enough food and clothing this morning, are you content?

- **Luke 12:19** – ¹⁹ *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!"* Now take it easy and.....what???

- **Romans 12:2** – There is something out there for everyone that is good, pleasing, and perfect. Are you interested?

- **Luke 12:20** – ²⁰ *"But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'* Are we foolish at times? Do we have reverence for the One that has control over each breath we take?

- **Luke 12:21** – ²¹ *"Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."* How do we get that rich relationship with Him?

1. Prioritize Prayer and Study. **Psalms 91:15**

* Regular Prayer: Make daily prayer a habit, engaging in open and honest communication with God.

* Study God's Word: Dedicate time to reading and reflecting on scripture, allowing it to guide your understanding of God and His will.

* Quiet time: Find a dedicated space and time for quiet reflection and communion with God, free from distractions.

2. Live Out Your Faith. **James 2:17**

* Be Kind and Generous: (Christ like) Treat others with love, compassion, and generosity, mirroring God's character.

* Seek God's Wisdom: Pray for wisdom to make sound decisions and navigate life's challenges. (Seek Godly counsel)

3. Cultivate a Heart for God. **Psalms 51:10**

* Value the Relationship: Recognize the importance of your relationship with God and actively work to strengthen it.

* Trust in God: Place your trust in God's plan and timing, even when faced with uncertainty.

* Seek Humility: Recognize your dependence on God (have a reverence for Him) and approach Him with a humble heart. (Don't be overconfident)

* Be a Good Steward: Manage the resources God has given you responsibly and use them to bless others and advance His kingdom.

- Strive to live a life that is pleasing to God, prioritizing His will above personal desires.

Closing: Luke 12:22-34 Do not worry about everyday life, have faith that God will care for you. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and He will give you everything you need. Store up your treasures in heaven and your heart will be there also.