

## The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

**Luke 12:13-21** - Someone in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who appointed Me a judge or arbitrator over you?" Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and now who will own what you have prepared?' "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

### ***Introduction:***

A. In this lesson we'll consider three things concerning this rich man:

1. His Good Traits
2. His Blunders
3. His Fall

### **I. *Good Traits***

A. He was Rich!

1. It's not the possession of wealth but the love of it that's sinful - 1 Timothy 6:10

**1 Timothy 6:10** - For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

2. When in righteous hands money is a blessing
  - a. Helping the less fortunate
  - b. Contributing so that the church can do more

B. He accumulated his goods honestly. The ground brought forth. No man lost by this man's gain.

C. He was successful. Good producer. God wants us to produce our best - 1 Corinthians 15:58

**1 Corinthians 15:58** - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

### **II. *Blunders***

A. He reasoned within himself and did not take God into account.

1. He was blind.
  - a. He did not recognize the source of his blessing. God made the ground produce. He talked about MY grain, MY goods - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** - in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2. He was indecisive.
  - a. People were hungry, and he didn't know what to do with his surplus. He said' "What shall I do?" - Acts 24:25

**Acts 24:25** - But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, "Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you."

3. He was selfish.

- a. Instead of filling empty stomachs he filled empty barns. He was SELF-CENTERED. He used I six times and MY five times - Matthew 19:21-22

**Matthew 19:21-22** - Jesus said to him, "If you wish to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard this statement, he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.

4. He was boastful.

- a. He boasted of the future. "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years..." Four times he said I WILL - James 4:13-16; Proverbs 27:1

**James 4:13-16** - Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.

**Proverbs 27:1** - Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

### III. *His Fall*

- A. He was rebuked.

1. "God said to him, Fool..." Fool in this case means one who doesn't see the golden opportunities before his eyes.
2. He could have dispensed food to the poor and gained friends on earth and in heaven!

- B. His soul was required.

1. Death came unexpectedly - Revelation 3:3; Job 16:22; Psalms 104:29

**Revelation 3:3** - 'So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

**Job 16:22** - "For when a few years are past, I shall go the way of no return.

**Psalms 104:29** - You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire And return to their dust.

- C. His goods were scattered.

1. He went one way and his goods another - 1 Timothy 6:6-9

**1 Timothy 6:6-9** - But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

### IV. *Lessons To Learn*

- A. Greatness of life depends not on the possessions of things - Luke 12:15

**Luke 12:15** - Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

- B. Man who does not credit God with the gain, seldom uses the gain as God would have him use it.

1. Those who say I MADE IT will also say I WILL KEEP IT or I'LL SPEND IT ON MYSELF.

- C. Those who leave God out of their plan will see their plan fail.
- D. Man and Goods are distinct. You're separated by death.
- E. It settles the question of ownership - 1 Corinthians 10:26

1 Corinthians 10:26 - **FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.**

- F. Those who give their soul for the world will lose the price and the purchase in the end - Matthew 10:28

Matthew 10:28 - **“Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”**

- 1. It is better to be Rich toward God! - Matthew 5:6

Matthew 5:6 - **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”**

- G. True success in life is the one who has learned that God is in control and has made sure that life is lived serving Him first and foremost!

### ***Conclusion:***

- A. If we are not careful, we may seek to accumulate more and more, without regard to our relationship with God.
- B. As the rich fool discovered in Luke 12, we will ALL one day be forced to recognize that the material things we have accumulated have NO “eternal value.”

### **How Much Do You Own?**

George Washington Truett was a preacher in Dallas, TX for 47 years. He once visited a wealthy West Texas rancher and had dinner in his huge home. After dinner, the rancher took the preacher up to a veranda on top of his house.

The sun was setting, and if you've ever been to West Texas, you know you can see a long way out there. The man pointed to the South – toward some oil rigs and said, “I own everything in that direction as far as you can see.” He pointed East – toward some cotton fields and said, “And I own everything in that direction, too.” He pointed North – toward a huge herd of cattle and bragged, “And, preacher, I own everything as far as you can see in that direction.” He turned West and said, – “And I own everything you can see in that direction, except the sun, of course.”

The preacher turned to the man and pointed up into the sky and said... “And how much do you own in THAT direction?”

It's a sobering question for all of us! We are surrounded constantly by the “things” of this world, and it is so easy to think that these “things” are the things that matter most – a nice car, a nice home, nice clothes, and of course all the necessary electronic gadgets.