

THE RICH FOOL | LUKE 12-13-21

I. THE PARABLES OF JESUS

- A. Parables are stories or illustrations told by Jesus **to illustrate divine truths**. They are illustrations by Jesus to illuminate the nuances of the Word, God, and the Kingdom.
 - 1. Parables are not stories to **conclude** theological truths, but they help **illuminate** truths already found in scripture and God's heart.
- B. In this series **our goal** is simple: **To get better acquainted with God and His Word through the stories Jesus told.**
- C. **Series challenge: Read 10 chapters of the New Testament for 31 days.** If you read 10 chapter a day of the New Testament, you'll read the New Testament in a month.
 - 1. We want to be a people who read the Word of God everyday, so that **every day we can go on a quest to re-insert God and His supremacy over our hearts.**

II. THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL. READ LUKE 12:13-34

- A. **Where your money goes shows where your heart is.**
 - 1. **Jesus spoke more about money than almost any subject** during his time here. Often because it was brought up by people like this man asking for his inheritance.
 - 2. His goal was always to show us one thing: that we can see what we value by where we put our resource. **Jesus wants to change our hearts**, which means changing how we spend our money.
- B. **Our theme today is a question: Is are you rich in God?**
 - 1. Everything we have **is rented** to us by God. Nothing we have belongs to us, **everything is His.**
 - 2. Jesus is talking about covetousness and greed, on guarding against **the spirit that always wants or needs more.**

III. LOOKING AT OUR PARABLE

- A. A few things to note:
 - 1. **The Man asking about the inheritance:** In Hebrew culture it was very common for someone to come to a rabbi (Jesus) and ask them to settle an inheritance dispute.

- a. The man wanted Jesus **to fix his problem, Jesus wanted to change his heart.**
- b. We are often like this man. We want God to fix our problems, but we are unwilling to let him change our hearts. **God is after your heart. Because YOU are His greatest treasure.**

2. **Jesus responds to Him "Man".** This was like saying with eyebrows raised: "Bro!". Jesus wasn't having any of this guy's dispute, instead he go to the heart of the issue: **Life is not in the abundance of things.**

- a. See to this man, ***the inheritance was a lie.*** To him it was: If I just had more money, more resource, more status, my life would finally be at peace, my heart would be at peace. **THAT was the lie.**

- a. He then tells a story to illustrate this: our parable.

3. **"The land produced plentifully"** Interesting to note that this is the land that produces, ***meaning that God gave.***

- a. Jesus makes no point about the evil of having lots of money, in the story he makes up, He give the man great wealth. Money can be a help or a hazard, this parable is distinguishing how.

4. **Greater barns meant greater savings accounts.** Storehouses of wealth from which he planned to entertain himself with. To eat drink and be merry.

B. **God calls him a "fool"**. When we typically think of a "fool" we think of someone unintelligent or incapable. This man was rich, and his crops bore great harvests. So why does God call him a fool?

1. ***"To be clever enough to get all that money, one must be stupid enough to want it."*** – G.K. Chesterton

C. **5 reasons he was a fool:**

1. **He thought of only Himself.**

- a. There are 6 "I's" and 5 "my's" in this short story.

- b. ***He forgot he wasn't the owner.***

- a. See its not your money, those aren't your kids, We are only stewards for God. Everything you have is His. It was given to you as an invitation to learn what its like to love like Him, serve like Him, be like Him.

- b. We will answer to God for how we steward all that God has given us.

- c. **Who is more dependent on God than a farmer?** The abundance was an entrustment from God. He gave zero gratitude to God for what He had received.
 - a. **Reflection:** Do we thank God for what we have? Or do we only think of ourselves?
 2. **He only of the present pleasure.** His focus was on the abundance to satisfy him.
 - a. **Reflection:** Is our focus on things or the pursuit of things to satisfy us?
 3. **He forgot about the brevity of life.**
 - a. Life is but a vapor. Here today gone tomorrow.
 - b. ***“Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.” James 4:13-16***
 4. **He forgot that you cant take possessions with you into death.**
 - a. The old Spanish phrase: “there are no pockets in a shroud.”
 5. **He believed the lie of money.**
 - a. Money exerts a certain control over us because it seems to give such great promises of happiness.
 - a. Money whispers with great force, *“Think and act this way to get into a position to enjoy my benefits.”* This can include stealing, borrowing, or working. **Money promises happiness**, and **we serve it by believing** the promise and walking by that faith. Having our faith in money.
 - b. **Reflection:** Is your faith in God's ability to provide? Or in your ability get money for your life to arrive at peace and happiness?
- D. **He was not rich toward God.** Because God was not His supreme treasure.
1. If we reject the lie of money, and pursue the real promise of God then we do whatever it takes in this life to gain God.
 2. To make Him our great pursuit.

IV. APPLICATION: HOW DO WE BECOME “RICH TOWARD GOD”

- A. In this entire text Jesus has something to say to those **who have wealth**, and those **who do not**. In both instances Jesus is saying the same thing: **Make God your supreme treasure.**
1. **To those who have:** He tells this parable. In it He is saying:
 - a. **Look beyond yourself.** Be generous. Don't store up what you have. Use it. Give it. Sow it. Show to the world where your value is, and How great God is.
 - b. **Look beyond this world.** Get the big picture. This life is but a vapor. You are going to live for a billion years. What you cultivate on the inside will matter where what you cultivate on the outside will not.
 2. **To those who have not:** He says do not be anxious. Do not worry. He says:
 - a. **Look beyond yourself.** Look at creation around you. God provides for every living thing and makes sure absolutely everything is taken care of. Stop worrying and start trusting. Put your faith in His ability, not your own, and your land will produce what is needed.
 - b. **Look beyond this world.** Get the big picture. Stop comparing yourself to others and what they have. If you never have abundance in this life, you can still joy, peace and happiness because he is your source. If you put your faith in God, what you are cultivating on the inside will make you rich in eternity. Make God your treasure.
- B. How do we do it?
1. **Study the Word.** No. I don't mean become a theologian.
 - a. I mean daily go on a quest to re-insert the supremacy of God and the riches of His reign over my heart.
 2. **Cry out to God in prayer.** Don't talk to God the way a child talks to Santa at Christmas. Cry out to Him. Ask Him for revelation. Ask Him for strength. Rely on Him in crisis and watch His hand provide.
 3. **Give until it hurts.** Be generous with your money. For every dime that comes in ask God “Is this bread for me to eat, or seed for me to sow.” Sow whatever you don't need to survive.
 - a. **If you leave anything in this life, leave behind a legacy of generosity** where you were able to be the blessing of Jesus to those in need, and to those building His kingdom here on Earth.