

Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

Problem Being Addressed: Jesus is dealing with the problem of greed and seeking life on earth in temporal possessions. Jesus has a teachable moment when a selfish and materialistic person in the crowd asks Him to intervene regarding the splitting of an inheritance.

Characters:

Rich Man

God

Key Learning's:

- 1) The key point: because we cannot take our material possessions with us, we should concentrate on storing up eternal treasures in Heaven (see I Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19).
- 2) God's definition of success is NOT based on how much material wealth we accumulate.
- 3) Earthly treasures do not last; heavenly treasures last for eternity.
- 4) Whatever possessions we have are on loan to us, and ultimately they are returned. God is the ultimate owner of everything.
- 5) We need to avoid worrying about the present and forgetting about eternity. We need to avoid being so concerned for the physical that we forget about spiritual things.
- 6) We need input and relationship with others – not be isolated “lone rangers”. Relationships are more important than “things”.
- 7) We should avoid all forms of greed; we need to be vigilant (“watch out”) for greed in our lives.

Application: Personal Mission Statement

Rich Fool's Mission Statement: *I aspire to accumulate as much earthly wealth as I can, and to live an indulgent life where I “take life easy and eat, drink and be merry”.*

Wes's Mission Statement: *“I aspire to glorify God by loving God and loving people, and to partner with God and others to build disciples of Jesus Christ” (1 Cor 10:31; Matt 22:34-40, 28:18-20).*

Additional Reading: Proverbs 30:8-9; Luke 12:22-34; Matthew 6:19-34