

## "The Parables of Jesus: The Parable of the Rich Fool"

Luke 12:13-21

*"There is a massive difference between believing in God and believing God."  
(R.C. Sproul)*

- Why did Jesus speak in parables? Matthew 13:10-17
  - The parables revealed truth or helped explain a truth to those who desired to hear. They also kept people from understanding who were hostile or indifferent to the truth.
  - A parable is an earthly story that has a spiritual meaning. They are only beneficial for those who have spiritual discernment (1 Corinthians 2:13-14).
- What was the question that brought on the parable?
  - *"Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."* (Deuteronomy 21:15-17; Numbers 27:8-11).
    - The law had already made a judgment on this issue.
    - Jesus did not come to address trivial disagreements between men, or disagreements that the Word has already addressed, He has come to judge hearts.
    - This man had no concern for spiritual things, only material things, which led to Jesus' next statement....
- *"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*
  - Jesus' response is not just to the man who asked the question, it is to the whole crowd because we are all at risk of covetousness.
    - One of the leading causes of spiritual death is covetousness (1 Timothy 6:9-10).
    - The temptation is to believe that possessions equal contentment and that true satisfaction is found in stuff, relationships, or power (Phillipians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-7, Proverbs 23:4-5).
- *"The land of a rich man produced plentifully...."*
  - The rich man's wealth came from God. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away for His purposes (Job 1:21-22).
- *The rich man thought unbiblical....*
  - He took *full ownership of his possessions*; he left God out of the equation. He had an "I" perspective, not a God perspective. He was not thankful (James 1:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).
  - He *did not give to God or others* in his abundance. He felt comfortable disobeying God's clear commands (Exodus 23:19; Luke 6:46; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11).
  - He lived as if he would live forever. He did not have a *"today matters" kind of mentality*.
    - We should not make decisions or be anxious about the uncertainty of tomorrow in a way that makes us not seek Him first (Matthew 6:33-34).
    - We should think and act under God's sovereignty not as if we are sovereign (James 4:13-17). We are under God's control, not our control. We should strive to be obedient, not sovereign.
  - He had a *"relax, eat, drink, and be merry" attitude*. That is, we live to enjoy stuff, not enjoy God (Ecclesiastes 5:10; Isaiah 55:1-3).

(continued →)

**Worship:** Glorious Day (Casting Crowns)      Christ the Solid Rock (Norton Hall Band)

**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- He had a *be rich here, not be rich eternally* kind of mentality. He did not make decisions that built eternal wealth (Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:35-36; Hebrews 10:34; Matthew 5:11-12).
- *He was a fool*. To be a fool is to be immoral, not unintelligent. It is to have no interest in spiritual matters in a certain area in your life.
- Final thoughts:
  - Salvation changes our attitude towards money and possessions (Luke 19:8-10; Matthew 19:20-22).
  - A love of money is identified by not giving to God (2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Psalm 52:7; Job 31:24-25 & 28).
  - A Christian is free to give abundantly because God has promised to meet our needs (Matthew 6:32-33; Philippians 4:19; Psalm 23:1).
  - Thankfulness to God and generosity to God are distinguishing marks between a believer and unbeliever (Psalm 116:12-17; Romans 1:21).
  - Greediness and covetousness destroys individuals, families, churches, and countries (James 4:1-4).