

The Rich Fool

Introduction

Luke 12:13-21

1. In this lesson we'll consider three things concerning this rich man:
 - A. His Good Traits
 - B. His Blunders
 - C. His Fall.

Good Traits

1. He was Rich!
 - A. It's not the possession of wealth but the love of it that's sinful.

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

- 1) When in righteous hands money is a blessing
 - A. Helping the less fortunate
 - B. Contributing so that the church can do more
2. He accumulated his goods honestly. The ground brought forth. No man lost by this man's gain.
3. He was successful. Good producer. God wants us to produce our best.
1 Corinthians 15:58

Blunders

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

A. He was blind.

- 1) 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 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

B. He was indecisive.

- 1) People were hungry and he didn't know what to do with his surplus. He said "What shall I do?"

Acts 24:25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

C. He was selfish.

- 1) 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 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

D. He was boastful.

- 1) 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 Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.

His Fall**1. He was rebuked.**

- A. “God said to him, Fool...” Fool in this case means one who doesn’t see the golden opportunities before his eyes.**

- 1) He could have dispensed food to the poor and gained friends on earth and in heaven!**

2. His soul was required.

- A. Death came unexpectedly.**

Revelation 3:3 “.....Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.”

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

Psalms 104:29 “....You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.”

3. His goods were scattered.

A. He went one way and his goods another.

1 Timothy 6:6-9 Now godliness with contentment is great gain. **For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.** And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Lessons to Learn

1. Greatness of life depends not on the possessions of things.

Luke 12:15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for **one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.**"

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

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

3. Those who leave God out of their plan will see their plan fail.

4. Man and Goods are distinct. You're separated by death.

5. It settles the question of ownership.

1 Corinthians 10:26 for "the earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness."

6. Those who give their soul for the world will lose the price and the purchase in the end.

Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. **But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

A. It is better to be Rich toward God!

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

7. 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

If we are not careful, we may seek to accumulate more and more, without regard to our relationship with God.

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.