

THE
RICH
FOOL

L u k e 1 2 : 1 3 - 2 1



The Rich Fool **Luke 12:13-21**

**THE DANGERS OF WANTING WHAT WE DON'T HAVE . . .
ESPECIALLY STUFF!**

Before anybody gets the wrong message, if you are blessed and have a bunch of really nice stuff, praise the Lord; this is not about bashing bountiful blessings.

IT'S ABOUT THE CARROT . . . THAT DOESN'T DELIVER.

**THIS MAN WAS A FOOLISH FARMER,
planting covetousness, materialism and greed.**



SO JESUS SAYS: BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS

THE REAL PROBLEM was not the inheritance!

- It was a greedy heart.
- As long as both men were greedy, *no* settlement would be satisfactory.
- Stuff was not the issue—it was the lust for stuff.

THE AMERICAN SICKNESS

- **MATERIALISM:** The quest for stuff at all costs
- Jesus made it clear that true life does not depend on an abundance of possessions, on earthly things.
- Yet, Jesus also did not deny that we have certain basic needs; so we must have balance.

Matt. 6:31-32, 1 Tim. 6:17

A FEW STARTLING STATS according to the World Banks' calculations:

- If your family income is \$10,000 a year, which is way less than you get on government assistance, **YOU ARE WEALTHIER THAN 84 PERCENT OF THE WORLD.**
- If it's \$50,000 or more a year, which is way less than the average family income per year here in California, **YOU MAKE MORE THAN 99 PERCENT OF THE WORLD.**

JESUS TOLD THIS PARABLE TO REVEAL THE DANGERS THAT LURK IN A COVETOUS “GIVE-ME-MORE HEART.”

As we read it, test your own responses to this farmer’s various experiences.

HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE WEALTHY FARMER’S *DILEMMA*?

- Contentment is the underlying issue
- **Phil. 4:11-13**

HERE IS A WAY FOR US TO DO A BIT OF SELF-DIAGNOSIS:

- If suddenly you inherited a great deal of wealth, would it create a problem for you?
- There are perils to prosperity. **Prov. 30:7-9**
- Wealth can choke the Word of God.
Matt. 13:22
- Wealth can create snares and temptations.
1 Tim. 6:6-10

HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE **DECISIONS** OF THE RICH MAN?

- Are you saying, *Now that is shrewd business!*
- *Save and have it ready for the future. What's wrong with that?"*
- Actually, there may be nothing wrong with that—unless you begin to trust in the wealth instead of God. **1 Tim. 5:8, John 6:12**

3. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE FARMER'S *DESIRES?*

Are you saying, “Ahh, this is the life”?

- It is very interesting how we place so much value on things that are temporary.
- The man has success, satisfaction, and security! What more could he want?
- But Jesus did not see this farmer enjoying life; He saw him facing death, and that **wealth would not take care of his eternity!**

4. FINALLY, HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO THE **DEATH** OF THE BOASTFUL FARMER?

- Wealth can be *enjoyed* and *employed* at the same time if our purpose is to honor God. **1 Tim. 6:10**
- The obsessive quest for stuff is like trying to **ride a dead horse.**
- How tragic when people are rich in this world, but destitute in the next! **Matt. 6:19-24**

LET'S **“BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS”**