

The Parable of the Rich Fool

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WARM-UP

- Would you consider yourself a spender, or are you more of a saver? Why?
- Share an instance when someone gave you an extravagant gift. How did you respond?
- Recount an experience where a loved one kept his/her promise to you, despite challenging circumstances.

WORD

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” **LUKE 12:34**

(Read also **LUKE 12:13-33**.)

The parable of the rich fool is about a man who, after gaining much wealth for himself, ended up being without God for eternity because he was not rich toward God (Luke 12:21). How can we, as believers, walk in God’s ways daily, and not fall into the trap of pursuing money? Following are three contrasts we can glean from this parable.

1 Generosity vs. Greed

And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” **LUKE 12:15**

Jesus commands us not to be greedy and covetous. To be consumed with greed means that we are relying on earthly riches to fulfill and satisfy us, and this is a form of idolatry (Ephesians 5:5). We can combat greed and covetousness in our hearts by practicing generosity daily. What does God promise to those who are generous? (2 Corinthians 9:11)

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Trust vs. Anxiety

²²And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on . . . ²⁴Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!" **LUKE 12:22,24**

God is our generous provider. Rather than worrying about what we do not have, we must consistently cultivate an attitude of trust in His goodness and grace. As we bring our concerns before God in prayer, we are assured that His peace guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6,7). How have you learned to trust God in times of need?

3

God vs. Money

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
LUKE 12:34

Choosing God over money means that we are surrendering our hearts to Him. Ultimately, we must put Him at the center of our lives, because He deserves our undivided devotion. What does God's Word say about choosing between God and money? (Matthew 6:24)

APPLICATION

- Would you consider yourself a generous person? How can you be more generous? What specific steps can you take this week to practice generosity?
- Are you anxious about your daily needs or do you trust God to provide for you? Choose a Scripture that you can meditate on this week that will remind you of God's nature, and ask God to remove any anxiety from your heart.
- Is God your ultimate treasure? What changes do you need to make in your life to make Him the center of your life, starting this week?

PRAYER

- Thank God for who He is and how He is so generous with us. Declare God's sovereignty in your life over the area of finances, and commit to walk in His ways daily.
- Pray that you will trust God and that you would learn to bring your needs to Him and look to Him as your source. Thank Him for His promise that as you do so, He will give you peace, which will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6,7).
- Ask God for opportunities to be a blessing to many. Pray that you would be generous and gracious, because of God's great love and grace in your life.



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