



Learning To Leverage” The Rich Fool - Luke 12:13-21

Getting Started . . .

If you are given \$20 as a gift, are you more likely to save it or spend it right away? Explain your answer.

For Discussion . . .

1) What’s the mistake that the rich fool makes? Growing a large crop? Building bigger barns? Playing it safe? Taking life easy? Or something else?

2) What does Jesus think about having many possessions, according to this parable?

3) Have someone read Prov. 6:6-11; Luke 12:22-34. What is the difference between wise planning and hoarding?

4) What’s the relationship between faith in God and planning for the future from a financial perspective (think 401K)?

5) What ‘possessions’ have you been given (financially, spiritually, socially, etc.)?

6) How are you currently spending or saving those ‘possessions’?

7) How could you use those to be “rich toward God” in a way that will make a difference even after you’re gone?

(Here’s an idea to get you started: this Saturday & Sunday = Weekend of Service!)

8) What could it look like if our entire church strove to be rich toward God in sharing our resources?

9) What is one small step you will take to use your resources in a way that will make a difference?

Passage Summary . . .

Why was the rich fool such a fool? Think about it.

First, he foolishly assumed that his life equaled his possessions. He thought that he was his stuff.

Secondly, he assumed that he had control over his stuff; that he was the source of his stuff. But look at the parable again. Did the fool produce his crop? No! Instead, "*The ground produced the good crop.*" He had absolutely no control over the weather or the rain or the insects or the locusts. He wasn't the source of his extra. God was.

Thirdly, this fool thought he controlled the length of his life. "*This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?*" And the answer to God's question is this: Someone else will. Some day someone else will get all you own! All of it! And it's really not because you've been generous. It's because . . . you're dead.

v. 21— "*This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.*" The word "this" in v. 21 refers to the man's loss. He was completely wiped out. And why? Because someone else got all he owned and this guy had absolutely nothing to show for it in the life to come. This guy thought that after he was done storing up all his extra—his responsibilities were over. NO! From God's point of view, his responsibilities were just beginning! But this guy defaulted and he missed his opportunity to be rich towards God.

Could Christ's point be any clearer? GOD BLESSES ME WITH MORE THAN I NEED SO THAT I CAN BE RICH TOWARD THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED!

Jesus says that money is a spiritual issue and spending is a spiritual decision. And so he asks, "What does God want you to do with your extra?" What if we paused? What if we asked: "I have more than I need! If I buy this, then I'll have to maintain it, clean it, dust it, fill it up, wash it, dry clean it, polish it, wax it, sweep it. What should I be doing with this extra? Maybe God wants me to give this to someone else." And when we start thinking like this our lifestyle stops chasing our income.

When you have more than you need, be rich toward those in need!

Notes:

Prayer . . .

Spend some time thanking God for the resources He's given you and the others in your small group. Then pray for each other that God would give you the wisdom and courage to use your resources to increase HIS kingdom, not our own.



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