

The Rich Fool

Luke 12:16-20

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Text: **Luke 12:16-20**

B. People said he was a success . . . God said he was stupid . . . A fool.

1. That is the force of the word . . . A fool.
2. It means literally . . . “A senseless one.”

C. This rich farmer is pointed out . . . By society . . . And by God Himself.

1. Society points him out.
 - a. Men would point him out to their sons.
 - b. They would point out his fine house, perhaps a mansion in that day.
 - c. They would point out his thoroughbred Egyptian horses.
 - d. They would take note of his many servants.
2. God points him out, too and draws the attention of the ages to this man’s unsaved soul.
 - a. This man made three mistakes:
 1. He measured success in material terms alone.
 2. He thought a soul could be satisfied with beef and beer.
 3. He thought he was going to live and live and live rather than die and die and die.
 - b. Let’s observe these three mistakes using a different wording.

HE MISTOOK HIS BANKBOOK FOR HIS BIBLE. (12:18)

A. **LUKE 12:18** – “So he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store everything.’”

B. To him, what he had laid up was more important than what the Bible had laid out.

1. The Bible challenges us to think beyond earthbound goals and to use what we have been given for God’s kingdom.
2. Faith . . . Service . . . And obedience are the ways to become rich toward God.

HE MISTOOK HIS BODY FOR HIS SOUL. (12:19)

A. **LUKE 12:19** – “And I’ll sit back and say to myself, ‘My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!’”

B. In the Greek rendering, this story includes the word “my” four times and the word “I” eight times. As this story reveals, the man’s joy came from his things . . . But while things do not last forever . . . The soul does.

HE MISTOOK HIS TIME FOR ETERNITY. (12:19-20)

- A. **LUKE 12:19-20** – “And I'll sit back and say to myself, My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry! But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get it all?’”
- B. He thought in terms of “many years” . . . God talked in terms of “This night.” He thought in terms of keeping it . . . God thought in terms of his leaving it. He thought in terms of taking it easy . . . God thought in terms of his taking off. He thought in terms of this life . . . God was thinking in terms of the next life.
- C. God’s thinking is wiser than our thinking.
- D. Concerned for no one but himself, when the time came for him to stand before God, he was nothing more than a fool.
1. He had counted on material wealth to sustain him. But God would take his life, and then who would get all his wealth? Not some . . . Not a little . . . But ALL of his wealth.
 2. In addition, he would not have prepared himself for eternity, and that would be his most foolish mistake
 3. Don’t repeat the mistakes of this man . . . But learn from them and include God in both your present and your future.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The rich man in Jesus’ story died before he could begin to use what was stored up in his big barns.
1. Planning for retirement . . . Preparing for life before death is wise . . . But neglecting life after death is disastrous.
 2. if you accumulate wealth only to enrich yourself, with no concern for helping others, you will enter eternity empty-handed.
 3. A familiar song sung in worship services is entitled: “*Must I Go and Empty-Handed?*” The 1st stanza asks these questions: “Must I go and Empty-Handed, Thus my dear Redeemer Meet? Not one day of service give Him, Lay no trophies at His feet? The Chorus asks even more questions: Must I go and empty-handed? Must I meet my Savior so? Not one soul with which to greet Him: Must I empty-handed go.”
- B. **Illustration:** Imagine a young man presenting his girlfriend with an engagement ring worth many, many hundreds of dollars . . . A ring that is enclosed in an attractive little black box worth less than a dollar. Picture the girl being captivated by the box and ignoring the diamond. “Oh, what a cute little box. Isn’t it pretty? I just adore it. I’ll treasure it forever. Wherever did you get it? I think it’s just darling.”
1. Would we not say that there’s something radically wrong with the girl’s sense of values?

2. Listening friends . . . There are many who are just as foolish . . . Perhaps more foolish . . . in the relative value they place on their body as compared with the value they place on their soul.
 3. What about your soul? What kind of value do you attach to it?
 - a. At death, your body will be buried . . . But not your soul.
 - b. Your soul will be somewhere else days before your body is buried in mother earth . . . And based on the value you place on your soul now will determine where it will go at death.
 4. Excellent advice . . . Ground your future plans in God’s will for your life.
- B. We need to spend less time talking to ourselves and more time talking with God.
- C. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**