

Tell Me a Story Part 2 February 25, 2024 The Rich Fool



I. INTRO

A. Jesus' great message gets interrupted

Luke 12:13-14 (NLT) Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me." Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?"

- B. Was he a fool?
 - On the surface this man didn't seem like a fool

Luke 12:15-16a (NLT) Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed wishing for what you don't have. For real life and real living are not related to how rich we are." Then he told them a story:

- C. This man didn't have a legal issue, he had a heart issue
 - Jesus won't be on our side if we're on the wrong side

Luke 12:20-21 (NLT) "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' "That is how it will be for whoever stores things away for themselves but is not rich in the sight of God."

• A fool is a person who stores things away for themselves, but isn't rich in the sight of God

II. THE HEART OF THE MATTER

A. Let's talk

Matthew 6:21 (NIV) For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21 (TLB) If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there too.

- B. This is difficult to see in the mirror:
 - I'm not rich ... so I can't be greedy
 - Greed is the assumption that everything I have is only for my consumption
 - Greed is not a financial issue, it's a heart issue
- C. We just have different barns
 - He comes into the story as a rich "man," but leaves the story as a rich "fool"
- D. Consumers and hoarders
 - A consumer says, "it's all for my consumption—now"



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Proverbs 21:20 (NLT) The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get.

A hoarder says, "it's all for my consumption later"

Proverbs 11:24 (MSG) The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

III. LIVE DIFFERENT

A. Honor the Lord

Proverbs 3:9-10 (TPT) Glorify God with all your wealth, honoring him with your firstfruits, with every increase that comes to you. Then every dimension of your life will overflow with blessings from an uncontainable source of inner joy!

- B. Never mistake your standard of living and your quality of life
- C. Greed is the result of two lies
 - Living as if there is no God
 - Living as if this life is all there is

Luke 12:22-23 (NIV) Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

Luke 12:29-31 (NIV) And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Luke 12:33-34 (NIV) Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21 (TLB) If your profits are in heaven, your heart will be there too.