



Following JESUS
THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Realign
Luke 12.13-21
(& 22-34)

Speaker:
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Priorities of Jesus through parables

Luke 9.51-19.44 Jesus' ministry through Samaria and Perea

| Priorities | Parables |
|-----------------------------|--|
| ✓ To seek and save the lost | Good Samaritan. Lost sheep. Lost coin. Lost son. |
| ✓ Kingdom of God | Mustard seed. Yeast. Narrow Door. The Great Banquet. |
| ✓ Prayer | Friend at midnight. Persistent widow. Pharisee & Tax collector |
| ☐ Money & stewardship | Rich fool. Dishonest manager. Minas |



Luke 12.13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴ Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’”

Luke 12.13-21

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.””

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Fatal Error 1

He thought that the yield (material blessings) is in his hands

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’”

Owner vs manager



Fatal Error 2

He thought that life is defined by possessions.

¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”’

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Fatal Error 3



He thought that his life is in his own hands.

²⁰ “But God said to him, **‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you.** Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

Outcome



The rich fool gave in to greed – wanted more and more, failed to stop to examine his fatal errors and assumptions.

Jesus' Instructions:

1. Watch out! Guard against all kinds of greed.

¹⁵ Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”



Jesus' Instructions:



2. Be rich toward God.

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. ...’²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

- What does “rich toward God” mean?
- Bigger barns – enough is enough?

”

“Possessions are bonded to a deep, often irrational fear—the fear of one day not having enough. Regardless of how much wealth is squirreled away, this gnawing fear presses frail humans to acquire more. There is never quite enough because the insecurity within never dies...” (Kenneth Bailey)

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Jesus' Instructions:



2. Be rich toward God.

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. ...’²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

- What does “rich toward God” mean?
- Bigger barns – enough is enough?
- No barn – do not worry

Luke 12.22-34



²² 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. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. **And how much more valuable you are than birds!** ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?”

Luke 12.22-34



²⁷ “Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, **how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith!** ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and **your Father knows that you need them.**

Luke 12.22-34



³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ 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. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

2 Cor 5.14-15



For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

Reflection and Response

- Is there greed in your life? Life does not consist of an abundance in _____ (Fill in the blank for yourself).
- In the midst of all that you do, are you rich towards God? Your priorities, time, finance, hobbies etc aligned to God?
- How do you define your life?