

12-2-2018

God-Rich

Luke 12:13-21 ¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?” ¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” ¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He 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. ¹⁹And 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.” (NIV)

I. Here are the details of this parable.

- A. It was in response to a **question** from someone in the crowd around Jesus. V. 13
- B. There was a **system** for settling inheritance issues in Israel. V. 14
- C. Jesus warned him against **greed** then began to tell this parable. V. 15
- D. A rich man had an abundant harvest and needed more **storage** space for his harvested crops. V.16-17
- E. He devised a **plan** to tear down all of his barns and build bigger ones. V.18
- F. This plan would enable him to **retire** early and live off of the stored surplus. V. 19
- G. However, he died and someone else got the **benefit** from his labor. V.20
- H. Jesus concluded that we should have **God’s will** as our goal and not our leisure as our goal in life. V. 21

II. What are some applications of these truths?

- A. Storing up treasures on earth should not be our number one **priority**.
Matthew 6:19-21 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (NIV)
- B. Be on your guard against **greed**. There is never enough money to satisfy the aching in your heart. Only **God** can fill this!
- C. The **Kingdom** of God and His **righteousness** need to be the number one priority in our life.
Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (NIV)

III. Let’s filter this Kingdom parable through the parable of the sower.

- A. A hard heart cannot fathom a Kingdom beyond this **world**.
- B. A rocky heart will never go **100%** towards the kingdom of heaven just in case the other religious beliefs are correct.
- C. A weedy heart will get extremely creative in **justifying** their greed. Every excuse will be emotional and rational.
- D. A good soil heart will be a good **manager** of the resources that God has given them but will not allow these blessings from God to become an idol.