



The Parable of the Rich Fool

(Luke 12:16-21)

Introduction:

1. How has prosperity affected your life? Your children's life?
 - a. Prosperity is the "state of being financially successful."
 - b. It can also be defined as the "state of material or spiritual bountifulness."
2. It has been said by some that, "Prosperity is killing America."
3. Could it be said that, "Prosperity is killing the church?"
 - a. Is prosperity killing your life?

I. Why does Jesus tell this Parable?

- A. (Luke 12:13-15)
- B. This unknown young man had a brother-to-brother problem. (Luke 12:13)
 1. Jesus never says if the claims were justified.
 2. This young man wanted the "Great Teachers" judgement made.
- C. Jesus told the crowd to beware of covetousness. (Luke 12:15)
 1. Covetousness is defined from the Greek word, "pleonexia," meaning the desire to have more.
 2. (1 Timothy 6:6-10)
 3. The Jewish people knew about covetousness. (Exodus 20:17)

II. The Parable of the Rich Fool

- A. (Luke 12:16-21)
- B. The field of this man yielded a large, bountiful crop. (Luke 12:16-17)
- C. The crop was so large there was no storage room in the existing barns. (Luke 12:17)
- D. The storage barns were built to hold the rich man's crop and his goods. (Luke 12:18)
 1. Other translations translate the word "good" for "good things."
- E. The harvest so bountiful that the rich man thought he would enjoy the benefits for years to come. (Luke 12:19)
- F. When his soul was required, the rich man became a rich fool. (Luke 12:20)
 1. Look at the definition of a fool. (Luke 12:20-21)

III. Are We the Rich Fool?

- A. Tough questions deserve honest and tough answers.
- B. The rich man had a prosperity problem.
 1. His prosperity took his thoughts away from God.
 2. (1 Timothy 6:6-10)
 3. The rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-21)
 4. Solomon knew about prosperity and he said all is vanity outside of the Lord (See the book of Ecclesiastes)
 5. (Matthew 16:26-27)
- C. The rich man had an ego problem.
 1. His ego covered his eyes toward God.
 2. Notice the use of the words, "I," "my," and "you" (in reference to himself).
 3. (Acts 12:20-25)
 4. The Christian life is a life of humility. (Philippians 2:3-7)

5. (Matthew 16:24)
- D. The rich man had a God problem.
 1. God gave the increase of the field, but the rich man was never thankful.
 2. (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
 3. "I will not forget your word." (Psalms 119:16)
 4. (Matthew 16:24-27)

Conclusion:

1. Are you in anyway like the rich, foolish man of Luke 12?
2. Are you like the individual approaching Jesus in Luke 12:13-15?
3. There needs to be a life change taking place in our lives:
 - a. To those who are Christians, a life change takes place every day as you deny yourself to bear your cross. (Matthew 16:24:27)
 - b. To those outside the body of Christ, you need a life change now. (Romans 6:3-6)