



Teachings of the Teacher – A study in the parables of Jesus
The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-34

Lesson 5

Luke 12 begins informing us that *an innumerable multitude of people had gathered together*. Our story today begins with the words: *Then one from the crowd said to Him* (Jesus). He then asked Jesus to *tell his brother to share his inheritance with him*. Ever the *Teacher*, Jesus grabbed the moment to teach about *riches*. May this valuable lesson be one that we learn to live. If it is, we will find ourselves worrying less as we realize the care of our heavenly Father and the value of storing *treasures* not in barns or banks, but in heavenly storehouses.

OBSERVATION: Read Luke 12:13-34

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
2. Key words help us to better understand a parable. We have listed below key words of this parable. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. As you mark key words, mark any personal pronouns or other words that refer to the key word which represents a person (*God, Jesus, and rich man*).
Key Words: *God, Jesus, rich man, life, things, treasure, worry/anxious, consider, seek,*
and the phrase *I will*.
 - a. The contrasting words *but* and *yet* are used four times. Mark each time these words are used. Chose one of the times and record what is being contrasted and the significance of the contrast.
 - b. Three terms of conclusion are used in this passage: *So* (verse 21), *therefore* (verse 22), and *if then* (verse 28 - better translated as *since then*). Mark these words and record the conclusions stated.

3. The man in the parable was not *rich toward God*. Using Jesus' instructions in Luke 12:29-33, list what we are to do if we desire to know true *riches*.

CONSIDER THESE THINGS:

1. How did your family regard possessions while you were growing up?
2. In what ways do we act like we will live for many, many years?
3. Over what *things* do you tend to *worry*?

THE REQUEST: Read Luke 12:13-15

1. *One from the crowd* approached Jesus with a request. What did he want Jesus to do?
 - a. Prior to the man's outburst, Jesus was teaching the people about confessing or denying the Savior before others. What do you think the man's abrupt change of topic revealed about him?
 - 1.) Jesus often cried out to the people, "*He who has ears to hear, let him hear*". What does this man's request after Jesus' teaching, teach us about having *ears to hear*?
2. What was Jesus' response in verse:
 - 14:
 - 15:

a. Using Jesus' response in Luke 12:15, what sin did He link the man's request to be granted his *inheritance*?

1.) Using synonyms, define the word *covetousness*.

3. Read Job 31:24-28. What was Job's conclusion regarding making material things his hope?

a. Explain this truth as you would to a believer who has lost sight of what is important.

Challenge: Record other verses that refer to *covetousness*.

4. Complete the last phrase of Luke 12:15: *for one's _____ does not _____ in the _____ of the _____ he _____.*

a. In what ways do our check books and calendars reveal what our *lives consist in*?

THE PARABLE: Read Luke 12:16-21

1. Following His warning to *take heed and beware of covetousness*, Jesus told a parable about a rich fool. Read through the parable and answer the following questions:

What was the financial status of the man in the parable? (verse 16)

What did he think *within himself*? (verse 17)

What was his solution to his question in verse 17? (verse 18)

What would he say to his soul? (verse 19)

What did God say to him? (verse 20)

2. Review your markings of the phrase *I will* in this parable. What do you think this reveals about how he viewed his possessions and good fortune?

3. In this parable, unlike some others, God is not depicted as a character, but as a divine Being. Why did God call the *rich man* a fool?
 - a. Consider God's question to the *rich man*. This rich man was doing more than saving; he was stockpiling. What is the difference?

4. Record God's conclusion (verse 21) in your own words.

5. What does Hebrews 13:15-16 challenge us to do?
 - a. Rather than call the person who is obedient to these verses a *fool*, what is God's reaction?

6. Jesus used the phrase *rich toward God* in Luke 12:21. How is it possible to be *rich toward God*?

THE LESSON: Read Luke 12:22-34

1. Luke 12:22 begins with the term of conclusion *therefore*, based on the parable of the *rich man*. Using the lesson of this parable, Jesus asked several questions, stated several facts, challenged us to *consider*, and set forth several instructions. In an effort to learn the lessons God has for us, fill in the blanks below:

CONSIDER:

- a. ... *the ravens, for they neither _____ nor _____, which have neither _____ nor _____; and God _____ them.* (verse 24)

- b. ... *the lilies, how they _____; they neither _____ nor _____; and yet I say to you, even _____ in all his _____ was not _____ like _____ of _____.* (verse 27)

- 1.) What thoughts do you have as you consider these things?

QUESTIONS:

- a. *Of how much more value are you than the _____?* (verse 24)
- b. *...which of you by _____ can _____ one cubit to his _____?* (verse 25)
- c. *If you then are not _____ to _____ the _____, why are you _____ for the _____?* (verse 26)
- d. *If then _____ so _____ the _____, which _____ in the field and _____ is _____ into the _____, how much _____ will _____ you...?* (verse 28)

1.) Which of these questions is most thought provoking for you? Why?

THE FACTS:

- a. *Life is more than _____, and the _____ is more than _____.* (verse 23)
- b. *For all these _____ the nations of the _____ after, and your _____ knows that you _____ these _____.* (verse 30)
- c. *...for it is your _____ good _____ to _____ you the _____.* (verse 32)
- d. *For where your _____ is, there your _____ will _____.* (verse 34)

1.) What do you think verse 34 means?

INSTRUCTIONS:

- a. *Do not _____ about your _____, what you will _____; nor about the _____, what you will _____.* (verse 22)
- b. *... do not _____ what you should _____ or what you should _____, nor have an _____.* (verse 29)
- c. *... _____ the kingdom of _____, and all these _____ shall be _____ to _____.* (verse 31)
- d. *Do not _____, little _____.* (verse 32)
- e. *_____ what you _____ and _____ alms; _____ yourselves _____ which do not _____, a _____ in the heavens that does not _____, where no _____ approaches nor _____.* (verse 33)

1.) Which instruction most challenges you? Why?

REVIEW: Read Luke 12:13-34

1. In what ways do the parable of the *rich man* and the conclusions that followed relate to the request of the man who asked Jesus to tell his brother to *divide his inheritance*?

2. Why do we too often live as if we will live for many, many years?

3. In what ways do the truths of Luke 12:22-34 challenge your tendency to worry?

4. What are some *treasures* that you can personally store in heaven?

5. How has this lesson encouraged or challenged you about your attitude towards:
 - a. what you feel is rightfully yours

 - b. your possessions

 - c. worrying

 - d. storing up treasures in heaven

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*

Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.

- Colossians 3:1-3 NIV

Observation Worksheet

Luke 12:13-34

Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." ¹⁶Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."' ²⁰But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' ²¹So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

²²Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. ²³Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. ²⁴Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? ²⁵And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? ²⁶If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? ²⁷Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ²⁸If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? ²⁹And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. ³⁰For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. ³¹But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. ³²Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."