

The Parable of the Rich Fool (I Wrote This Story)

In the Bible in the Book of Luke, It tells us about a time when Jesus was talking with a large group of people. Many thousands of people had gathered to listen to what Jesus had to say. In fact, there were so many people that they began to trample on one another.

One of the men in the crowd had very little interest in what Jesus had to say. He had come for one purpose and one purpose only. He had a problem and he wanted Jesus to take care of that problem.

It seems that someone in this young man's family had died and there was an inheritance that was going to be given out. An inheritance is when someone dies and they have left instructions to give their money to a specific person.

Now according to Jewish law, the oldest son in the family would be the one who received the largest part of that money. And it would be his job to decide what to do with the rest.

Now, the man who spoke to Jesus was not the oldest son, he was a younger son and he wanted money and he wanted it NOW. The two brothers must have argued a lot over who was going to get the money. Because the younger brother had given up and decided to try a different route. He decided to go to Jesus and try to get Jesus to TELL his brother to give him the money.

“Teacher, the young man began, “Tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

Did you notice how the young man didn't ask Jesus to decide how the money was to be divided? Instead he wanted Jesus to take his side. He said **“TELL”** my brother, not **“ASK”** my brother, not **“SPEAK WITH MY BROTHER”** no, he said **“TELL”** my brother.

Now this did not make Jesus very happy. In fact, Jesus refused to be drawn into the argument. “Man, who appointed Me a judge or an arbiter between you?” You see, Jesus was not a Judge he could not legally decide what to do with the money. But even more importantly, In Luke it tells us that “He came to bring *men* to God, not *property* to man.”

Jesus turned from the man to the huge group of people standing there and he told them ***“WATCH OUT! BE ON YOUR GUARD AGAINST ALL KINDS OF GREED; A MAN’S LIFE DOES NOT CONSIST IN THE ABUNDANCE OF HIS POSSESSIONS.”***

Jesus was telling the people that it does not matter how much money we have and it does not matter how many possessions we have.

Our possessions should not be what is important to us. All of the money and all of the possessions we have were given to us by God. He wants us to have a nice life, to be comfortable, but He does not want us to be greedy. Some of the money and some of the possessions are to be used to take care of God's people. We are to share with the poor, the hungry, the cold and the homeless. That is far more important to God.

Now does that mean that we can't have some nice things? NO! We can have money, we can have a nice home, we can have nice clothes. But we are not to be greedy. We are to take from what we have and share with others in need.

In the Bible it also tells us that "what is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight."

Do you know what that means? That means that the things some of us LOVE so much, such as money or big houses or fancy clothes are not impressive to God at all.

If we value these things more than we value doing the Lord's work, we are doing wrong.
We are sinning.

In order to help the people understand what Jesus was trying to tell them, he told them a Parable.

Remember a Parable is a story that Jesus told in order to help us understand how He wants us to live our lives.

Jesus told the people the Parable of the Rich Fool. And this is what he said.

There was a Rich man who had a very big farm.

There was a great harvest that year and his workers gathered LOTS AND LOTS of grain.

“How blessed I am! I am Rich!” exclaimed the rich man.

But soon the man discovered that he had a real problem. “Oh, What shall I do? The man wondered to himself. “The harvest was SO GREAT that I have no room to store it in my barns.—Oh, no!! I may have to give some away!”

“No, wait a minute”, he thought, “I know what I’ll do! I will pull down my old barns and I will build bigger barns! I will say to myself, “You have many riches stored up for many years. Take it easy, eat, drink, and be merry!”

But God said to him. “You fool! Tonight you will die! Then what are you going to do with all those things that you have stored up?”

Just as God had told the man, that very same night he died in his sleep and he had to leave it all behind.

He could not take all those riches with him could he?

Now, there was nothing wrong with this man having lots of money, and there was nothing said in the Bible about him earning his money dishonestly, and there was nothing wrong with him possessing lots of land that produced a bumper crop was there? No, the only problem was that he decided to keep ALL of the money for himself. He was being GREEDY.

The Rich man's treasures were on earth. He was a fool because he built his life around what couldn't last and what really didn't matter.

Our call as a disciple is to be rich toward God and to have a treasure in heaven that will last forever and ever.

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MEMORY VERSE

“It is more blessed
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Acts 20:35

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Parable of the foolish man who was not rich toward God
LUKE 12:13-30

