

Message-based Study

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Connection

On a scale of 0-10, with 0 being you need to use GPS to find your way home from the grocery store, and 10 being you could be the worlds next great explorer, how is your sense of direction?

Content - Parable of the Rich Fool - Luke 12:13-21

This parable emerges from Jesus response to a request from someone in the crowd to arbitrate between him and his brother over the matter of their inheritance. Jesus not only denies the request but rather uses it as a teaching opportunity to warn against greed and reliance on wealth for our security.

1. Luke 12:13 sets the context for the parable as a man in the crowd asks Jesus to "tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me", as it is his right.

Can you imagine interrupting Jesus as he teaches, and to then asking Him this? What do you think this man was feeling as he made this request?

2. Using the teaching opportunity, Jesus responds to the man in Luke 12:14-15 saying, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

Jesus is getting to the heart of the issue and warning us to watch out for every kind of greed. What do you think he meant by "every kind of greed" and how can this apply to your own life?

3. Read Luke 12:16-19. Here Jesus begins telling his parable. The rich man is simply beginning to prepare for the storage of his surplus and, on the surface, everything may seem normal with his actions. What signs do you see in these words that the rich man isn't building up a rich relationship with God?

4. James 4:13-16 relates to this parable as it challenges us to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that".

What are some of your motives and priorities right now and how can you begin to shift them towards God, asking "If it is the Lords will" rather than your own?

5. Luke 12:20 draws the parable near its conclusion as God says "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

Our mortality is a great motivator for our actions. We all have an opportunity to bless others, with what God has given us. What ways can you begin blessing others in your life this week?

Commitment

6. Jesus follows this parable with Luke 12:22-33, speaking to where we should store our treasures and why we need not worry with Christ in our lives.

Read this passage, and write down one thing you will hold close to your heart this week from His teaching.



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

This week, **listen with care** to a person in your life who needs to hear and feel Jesus' love. Begin today with this tool of how to B.L.E.S.S. them.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?