

The Life of Christ

Lesson 6

Luke 12:13-21

February 14, 2021

Successful, Wealthy and Foolish

Introduction

Jesus discussed money more than He discussed both faith and prayer combined. Sixteen of His 38 parables discussed how to handle money and possessions. Clearly, money is a big deal to Jesus. Money is such a big deal because it reveals our inner thoughts and our true priorities. As sinful beings, we are inherently selfish, and the love of money is the most apparent evidence of our selfishness.

At an even deeper level, though, the great danger associated with the love of money is that when it becomes our god (little “g”), it keeps us from being reliant upon Jesus. When we trust our bank account, we trust in our own accumulated wealth and achievements rather than trusting and resting in the Lord.

Luke 12:13-21 tells two stories of men who struggle with money. The first was a real man who wanted his brother’s money. The second was a character in a parable who trusts in his own excess. Jesus’ answer to both is the same: Trust in your own wealth cannot and should not replace your trust in God.

Memory verse: “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?’ This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”—Luke 12:20-21

Pray and read Luke 12:13-21. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What did the man ask Jesus to do? (Luke 12:13)
2. Did Jesus do it? (Luke 12:14)
3. What was Jesus' warning? (Luke 12:14)
4. What did the man do with his abundance of crops rather than giving them to the needy? (Luke 12:18)
5. What did the man plan to do after he stored all his excess grain? (Luke 12:19)
6. How did God respond to this? (Luke 12:20-21)

What does the passage mean?

1. Why did the man assume that Jesus had the authority to be the arbiter of the inheritance? (Luke 12:13)

2. At the time, a rule in Jewish culture was that the first-born son got twice the inheritance as the second-born son. This man was probably involved in some dispute with his brother with concerning this practice and wanted more than he was getting. What does this say about his motivation for asking Jesus to be the decider in this case? (Proverbs 15:27, 28:25; Luke 12:13; 1 Timothy 6:10)

3. Why did Jesus refuse to take the role of arbiter or judge in this case? (Luke 12:14)

4. Think about what the man in the parable did (building a bigger barn). Was what a reasonable thing to do given his situation? Why or why not? (Proverbs 13:22; Luke 12:18-19; 1 Timothy 5:8)

5. What was the man's motive in storing up so much grain? (Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 28:26; Luke 12:19)

6. What kind of “richness” is better for us than greed?
(Luke 12:21; 2 Corinthians 8:9; 1 John 2:15-17)

Applying the passage

1. It's natural to want to save money for the future to not depend upon other people. How is the man storing up grain different than (or the same) when we save money in a savings account or 401K? (Matthew 6:19-24; Romans 13:8; Proverbs 6:6-8, 10:4-5)

