

The Parable of the Rich Fool
(Luke 12:16-21)

I. Exposition

- The Man's Blessed Estate (v. 16)
- The Man's Happy Dilemma (v. 17)
- The Man's Self-Centered Plans (vs. 18, 19)
- God's Sudden Intervention (v. 20)
- Christ's Sober Conclusion (v. 21)

II. Investigation: Why does God say this man is a fool?

- Negatively: not because of the man's wealth, diligence, or prudence (Prov. 6:6-8; 27:12)
- Positively: Because he forgot:
 1. That our lives are dependent upon God, not goods (Acts 17:25, 26).
 2. That God is the one who gives power to make wealth (Deut. 8:18)
 3. That riches are temporary and fleeting (Prov. 23:4, 5).
 4. That he must one day leave his goods behind (Ecc. 5:15).

III. Corroboration

1. Wealth and riches are not of the essence of life (Deut. 8:3).
2. Wealth should be used for the glory of God (1 Tim. 6:17).
3. Riches are vain and fleeting, and therefore shouldn't be sought for exclusively (Matt. 6:19, 20).
4. Riches compete for the soul's affections (Matt. 6:21, 24; Eph. 5:5; 1 Tim. 6:10; Heb. 13:5).

IV. Application

- 1) Mark well whom God says is a fool.
- 2) Beware of covetousness, in all of its forms, and at every stage of life.
- 3) Seek the true riches, as an antidote to the sin of covetousness.
 - Share with others (Eph. 4:28).
 - Cultivate contentment (1 Tim. 6:8).
 - Examine yourself.
 - Don't envy wicked people (Ps. 73).
 - Be rich in faith (James 2:5).