

# The Foolish Rich Man

Luke 12:13-21

Faith Portal Church

**ADULT**

Unit 3 Lesson 1

## Supplemental Texts

Matt 6:19-34

## Focus Verse

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” – Matt 6:20,21

## Introduction

Jesus had a serious discourse with the Scribes and Pharisees. He rebuked their hypocrisy. At this time, “myriads” of people (as in the original text; a myriad is 10,000) gathered unto Him. And Jesus began to address His disciples to be mindful of the hypocrisy of the Scribes and the Pharisees. As Jesus spoke, a man interrupted Him with a matter between him and his brother.

## Deeper Look

### Master, Speak To My Brother – Luke 12:13-15

According to the law (Deut 21:17), the firstborn son had a double share or twice as much as any other child. It seems that the older brother had refused to give his brother his share of the inheritance; thus, he resorted to Jesus to arbitrate. The complainant could have come to Jesus because he fathomed that He was a revered Teacher. However, the reply Jesus gave pointed to the purpose of His ministry — spiritual, not secular. Jesus, knowing that the matter centered on covetousness (in either of the brothers, or both), told His audience a parable.

### What Shall I Do? – Luke 12:16-21

Jesus gave an illustration of a rich man who had a fertile farmland, which produced beyond his expectations. Because he had great harvests and no room to store his fruits (original word applied to all produce, including grain), he resolved to pull down his barns and build bigger ones, where he could store his produce and goods.

There are issues with his judgment: he did not consult God before reaching his resolution (Prov 3:5-7); he could have added new ones instead of razing what he had to build another; he ascribed the increase of his riches to himself but not God (count the number of times he used “I” and “my” — Luke 12:18,19); he desired to lay up all in his barns for his own use but not God’s nor the poor’s (Matt 6:19-21). While he claimed all things, yet he could not claim tomorrow (Jam 4:13-17); and he intended to feed his soul with nonspiritual food. Thus, God called him a FOOL!

## Questions

1. Why did the man in the crowd request Jesus to intervene in the inheritance dispute between him and his brother? Bearing in mind the mission of Jesus, what piece of advice would you have given to this man before he spoke to Jesus?
2. What did Jesus point out to be the root cause of the inheritance dispute? Why was it so crucial that Jesus warned about it? See Col 3:5. Mention a person in the Bible who exhibited the “root cause,” and what happened to the person, as a result.
3. This rich man was all about himself — selfish. How many things did you see wrong in all he said in Luke 12:17-19? How can we guard against this attitude in our lives?
4. What can destroy the rich man’s treasures? Give some examples of treasures we possess. Are they immune to destruction? How long can we hold on to them?
5. Why did God call the rich man a fool and what could stop God from demanding his soul that night?
6. Read Psa 39:6 and Ecc 2:18,19. What instruction did you get from these verses? Does this instruction have a positive influence on your outlook of life?
7. How safe are treasures laid up in heaven? Identify ways the rich man could have laid up his treasures in heaven? How can you start laying up your own treasures in heaven?

## Personal Meditation

We have a lot to learn from the parable and from the person whose request caused Jesus to present the parable. Jesus was teaching His disciples when this man in the crowd interrupted Him and demanded Him to mediate in an inheritance dispute. It seemed apparent that this man was not attentive to the spiritual matters (Matt 13:19,22). It should not surprise us that, if care is not taken, we can find ourselves in his shoes. We are no different from the man.

He likely had a good case against his brother, and Jesus could settle the dispute, but rather, He offered a warning as covetousness was in the hearts of the two brothers. The bible speaks against covetousness (Eph 5:3; Col 3:5). Is your heart on the things of eternal value (Col 3:1,2)?

The rich man did not honor God with his wealth. His pride and folly reached into heaven, and God took away all He gave him by taking his life. Godly wisdom helps us see that we are not in control of our life and future. We are not to satisfy our carnal appetites by amassing wealth on earth but to transform them into treasures in heaven (Matt 6:19-21). See Psa 39:6; Ecc 2:18,19.

## DAILY STUDY

Monday	Matt 6:19-23
Tuesday	Matt 6:24-26
Wednesday	Matt 6:27-30
Thursday	Matt 6:31-34
Friday	Luke 12:13-17
Saturday	Luke 12:18-21



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