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### **Lesson/Sermon: The Rich Fool – Luke 12:16-21 and**

#### **Scripture:**

Luke 12:16-21 (KJV): “And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

#### **Introduction:**

The parable of the Rich Fool is a stark warning against greed, self-reliance, and placing material wealth above spiritual wealth. It teaches that life is fleeting, and earthly possessions cannot secure eternal security. Jesus used this parable to respond to a man who was concerned with an inheritance dispute (Luke 12:13-15), revealing that greed and covetousness can blind us to our real need for God.

#### **Main Points:**

##### **1. The Prosperity of the Rich Man (Luke 12:16-17)**

- The man’s land produced abundantly, leading to a dilemma: “What shall I do? I have no room to store my crops.” Abundance is not inherently sinful; the problem lies in how the man views and uses his wealth.

- He sees his abundance purely in terms of selfish gain, asking, “What shall I do?” without any consideration for God or others.

## **2. The Foolish Plan (Luke 12:18-19)**

- He decides to build bigger barns to store his goods and then plans to say to his soul, "Take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry."
- Notice his self-centered language: "I," "my fruits," "my barns," "my goods." This reveals his focus on self rather than on using his resources for God's glory.
- Key Lesson: Wealth is not a problem, but placing trust in wealth is dangerous (1 Timothy 6:17).

## **3. The Divine Judgment (Luke 12:20)**

- God calls him a "fool" and tells him that his soul will be "required" that very night. All his wealth and plans are meaningless because he neglected his eternal soul.
- Jesus' warning: "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

## **4. The True Treasure (Luke 12:21)**

- Jesus concludes: "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Being rich toward God means using resources to serve Him and bless others, laying up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).

## **5. Application:**

- Avoid the trap of materialism and self-centered planning. Live each day with eternity in mind.
- **Supporting Scriptures:**
  - 1 Timothy 6:7: "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out."
  - Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

## **Conclusion:**

The Rich Fool's error was not in having wealth but in trusting wealth and living as if he would live forever. Be rich toward God by seeking His Kingdom, serving others, and using every resource for His glory.

## **Lesson/Sermon The Narrow Door – Luke 13:22-30**

### **Scripture:**

Luke 13:22-30 (KJV): “And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.”

### **Introduction:**

This passage is a sobering reminder that salvation is not a matter of casual association with Jesus, but a deliberate and diligent pursuit. The parable of the Narrow Door teaches the urgency of striving for true faith, the danger of assuming we are saved based on superficial knowledge, and the reality of eternal exclusion for those who are not known by God.

### **Main Points:**

#### **1. The Urgency of Entering Through the Narrow Door (Luke 13:24)**

- Jesus says, “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”
- The Greek word for “strive” is *agonizomai*, implying an intense struggle, as in an athlete’s effort to win a race. Entering the Kingdom requires focused effort, not passive belief.
- Jesus contrasts striving with simply seeking. Many will seek (showing some desire), but only those who strive will succeed.
- Application: Seek God with your whole heart (Jeremiah 29:13) and put Him above everything else (Matthew 6:33).

#### **2. The Door Will Be Shut (Luke 13:25)**

- “When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door..”

- There will come a time when the door of opportunity will be closed. This speaks of a deadline—whether at death or the return of Christ—after which no more opportunities for salvation will be given.

- Application: Do not delay; today is the day of salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2).

### **3. The Tragic Plea of the Rejected (Luke 13:25-27)**

- Those outside the shut door will plead, “Lord, Lord, open unto us,” claiming to have known Jesus. They will point to superficial associations: “We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.”

- Jesus’ response is chilling: “I know you not whence ye are: depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.”

- This reveals that proximity to Jesus (hearing His words, being in church, etc.) does not guarantee salvation. True faith requires a transformed life, not mere familiarity.

- Supporting Scripture: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)

### **4. The Reality of Exclusion (Luke 13:28)**

- “There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth...” This phrase is used throughout the Gospels to describe the agony of those eternally separated from God.

- Jesus warns that many who assumed they would be included will see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom but will be thrust out.

- Application: Self-examine to see if you are truly in the faith (2 Corinthians 13:5).

### **5. The Reversal of Expectations (Luke 13:29-30)**

- “And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.”

- This shows that many who seemed to be outside of God’s favor (Gentiles, publicans, sinners) will be included, while those who assumed they were “first” (the religious elite) will be excluded.

- Application: Don’t rely on status or position; rely on a genuine relationship with Christ (Philippians 3:8).

### **Conclusion:**

Entering the Kingdom of God is a narrow path that requires repentance, faith, and perseverance. Superficial knowledge or casual association with Jesus is not enough. Strive to enter through the Narrow Door before it is shut, for once it is closed, no amount of pleading will open it.

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