

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 91. The parable of the rich fool



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Luke 12 v.13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?' Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.' And he told them this parable: (see v.16-21)

**LOOKING FURTHER:** 1 Timothy 6 v.7-10; Luke 12 v.22-34; Luke 21 v.1-4

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

The man in our passage may have felt his brother was cheating him and thought Jesus could help. He had not understood Jesus' mission, which was not to act as a judge, but to bring people to know His Heavenly Father.

Jesus took this opportunity to warn people against greed, saying that a person's life does not consist of the amount of wealth he or she has. As He often did, He then told them a parable (a story of everyday things or events) to explain His teaching. Read the parable in Luke 12:16-21.

The man in the parable had received a good crop from his land and planned to build bigger barns and then to take things easy – eating and drinking too much. He had no plans for sharing his wealth with others. He was greedy and selfish. He did not realise that God had given him all he had, including his life, and could take it away at any time. Depending on material things was foolish for he could not take them with him when he died. (1 Timothy 6:7)

Wealth itself is not wrong – we all need money to buy food and have somewhere to live – it is what we do with our wealth that matters. Are we satisfied with what we have or are we greedy, constantly needing to have more and more? As it says in 1 Timothy 6:10, it is the love of money which is wrong. Most of us are not called to give away everything. But we are called not to be greedy and to offer everything to God.

Life is so much more than possessions. Of course, we all want a decent standard of living but children in particular need their parents' love and time more than the latest designer clothes or computer games. Let us not be greedy, but use what we have in ways which honour God and bring joy to others as well as ourselves. Our reward will be of far more value than a house full of the latest stuff!

### Reflections:

- Think of the things in life that are more valuable to you than a large number of possessions. Write them down or draw pictures of them.
- Make a list of the people you admire and ask yourself whether they appear to be generous with their possessions and/or time. Could the reason that you admire them be because they are generous, not greedy?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

