

The Parables Of Jesus

Lesson 10

The Parable Of The Rich Farmer (Lk. 12:16-21)

Where & When: During *The Judean Ministry*...6 months to crucifixion

Occasion Producing The Parable:

- Jesus is giving discourses on various subjects (vv. 1-59)
 - Even though He is halfway through His 3rd year (*"Year Of Opposition"*), Jesus still has crowds listed in the "thousands" (v. 1a)
 - So far, Jesus had taught about false teachers & their hypocrisy (v. 1b); all things will eventually be uncovered at judgment (vv. 2-3); proper fear & respect for God (vv. 4-5); God's concern for His people (vv. 6-7); the importance of following Him (vv. 8-10); the persecution awaiting His disciples (vv. 11-12)
- In the midst of His address, a man in the crowd interrupts Jesus, requesting He arbitrate a family dispute over the inheritance (v. 13)
- Jesus refuses...instead, He issues a warning re: greed and covetousness (vv. 14-15)

Questions:

- 1) Briefly summarize the parable.

- 2) Who does the farmer in the parable represent?

- 3) The farmer was never rebuked for gaining his wealth with ill-gotten gain. His problem was not fraud, but foolishness. Answer the following questions re: the mistakes he made.

Mistake #1 → Who did he assume was the owner of his crops? (vv. 17-18)

Who did he forget? (Mt. 5:45; Acts 14:17; 17:25)

What is the faithful man's mindset? (Heb. 11:13b)

Mistake #2 → What did he think was the only way to use his abundance? (vv. 17-18)

As a farmer (*knowing about drought, floods, blight, low yields, theft*), who else should have been on his mind? (1 Tim. 6:18-19; 1 Jn. 3:17-18)

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Mistake #3 → What did he think his new barn would provide? (v. 19)

What did the man in the crowd & this parabolic farmer think would be the answer to all their problems?

Why is this thinking bad? (Prov. 4:23; 23:5; Eccl. 5:10-12; 6:7; 1 Tim. 6:6-8, 17)

Mistake #4 → Despite all his thoughts & intentions, what did this farmer forget? (v. 20a)

He thought "...many years." What was God's thinking?

What final question does God ask the farmer? (v. 20b; Eccl. 2:18-19, 21)

- 4) Would you say the farmer was a "materialist?" Thought question: since he didn't get the new barn built, what does that tell us re: being guilty of the sin of materialism?

- 5) With what realistic jolt does Jesus conclude this parable? (v. 21; Mt. 16:26; 2 Cor. 6:10; 8:9)

- 6) What is the main lesson to be learned from this parable?