

## NOTES: The Moral of the Story: The Rich Fool

August 14-15th, 2021

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### Luke 12:16-21

16 And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. 17 And he began thinking to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and I will store all my grain and my goods there. 19 And I will say to [I]myself, "You have many goods stored up for many years to come; relax, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!" 20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night [m]your soul is demanded of you; and as for all that you have prepared, who will own it now?' 21 Such is the one who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich in relation to God."

### How to be rich toward God

#### 1. Charity

Defined as Love; universal benevolence; good will.

1 Corinthians 13:13 KJV "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

<p><b>"Charity is the root of all good works." –Saint Augustine</b></p>
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#### 2. Don't place your hope in riches, but in the One who richly provides.

1 Timothy 6:17 Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.

#### 3. If you have been given much; give much

Generosity: We believe our abundance is meant to be someone's blessing, so we choose to live with open hands and not closed fists.

#### 4. Store up treasures in Heaven, not treasures on Earth

Matthew 6:19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

### What's valuable both now and in eternity are the things God cares about

- Treating people right
- Enduring persecution
- Loving your enemies
- Praying
- Giving
- Sharing the Gospel
- Forgiveness
- Loyalty
- Grace

Are you rich toward God, or only rich toward yourself?

**Sermon Discussion Questions**  
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*For continued group, individual, and family study*

1. Have you ever played the game Monopoly? Think about the best strategy on how to win this game.

<b>Read Luke 12:13-21</b>
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1. How does the Monopoly strategy (accumulate more, gain more, win) differ from what Jesus is saying in this parable?
2. What issue did someone bring to Jesus and what impact could it have had on the relationship between brothers (13)? How did Jesus respond and why (14)?
3. In Jesus' parable, how did a rich man come to have an abundant harvest (16)? What plan did he make and with what motive (17-19)? What would you have done in this man's place?
4. What do you think the phrase "be rich toward God" means?
5. At its core, the word charity is much deeper than just giving money to an organization. Charity is defined as Love; universal benevolence; good will. How is charity and being rich toward God related?
6. What are practical ways you can practice charity?
7. Do you find it difficult to not place your hope in riches? Why or why not?
8. What would change in your life if your perspective shifted from temporary to eternal? How would this help us determine what we invest in most?
9. When it comes to money, worry acts as an overwhelming fear that there will not be enough for the future while greed is an insatiable hunger for more. How can we find the right balance?
10. Which do you think is worst - worry or greed?

<b>Read the Parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16) for next week.</b>
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