



DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 3: THE RICH FOOL

Read the Text

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” ¹⁴ But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” ¹⁵ And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ ¹⁸ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ ²⁰ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Main Point

The Bible has a lot to say about money, and this week’s parable reveals the relationship between our heart and our attachment to wealth. Whereas this person in the crowd is seeking an answer to arbitrate his inheritance, Jesus gives him a lesson on the concealed idols of his heart. This man is in the presence of Jesus, hearing Him preach about the Kingdom of God, and his biggest concern is over money. This man, like many of us, is under the illusion that money offers more freedom and comfort than it can actually provide. 2,000 years later, and it’s still true that money represents and can offer a false sense of comfort, power, security, and freedom. ***These illusions appear when our imagination displaces reality.*** Just like this man, we over index on what money actually provides us and forget about our true inheritance in Jesus. Money preys on our desire for good things and goes after our hearts to turn away from the comfort of Jesus and towards the false comfort of money.

In the parable, we see a rich man enter into the enticement of wealth as he plans to build up more and more for himself so that he can live a fulfilled life of pleasure and relaxation. We may read it and see his foolishness, but this story is telling the truth about us. Whether it's our own greed and accumulation of money and things, or coveting other people's lives on social media, or comparing ourselves to each other in general, we also fall into believing the illusion that money buys happiness. ***As the illusion of money and its false promises entices us, we soon forget the reality that only God can truly offer us what we need.***

As we see this man dream about his future and wealth, God rebukes Him for his foolishness and tells him that he's going to die. Everything this man stored up for himself here on earth was done in vain because he's never even going to be able to enjoy it. What is Jesus trying to tell us with this parable? ***What we seek for in money and possessions is actually found in the Kingdom of God.*** This offers us great freedom. It means that our security and freedom are not dictated by the ups and downs of the stock market or inflation or the withering away of possessions. Instead, we are inheritors of an eternal and holy kingdom. Our adoption into God's family and our home in His kingdom is safe, secure, and eternal.

Reflect Together

1. The Bible talks about money a lot. Why do you think that is? What does our relationship with money have to do with our relationship with God?
2. Money can offer a lot of tempting benefits: comfort, security, control, power, freedom, etc. Which of these benefits entices you the most and why do you think that is?
3. The way we use our money can either *enhance* the kingdom of God or *replace* the kingdom of God. How would you like to grow in using what God has trusted you with to enhance His kingdom?

Abide Together

Our generosity tells the truth about God. Is there a particular area God is calling you to give money towards? It could be to the Church, the poor, orphans, widows, missionaries – really, anything that God cares about. Pray together that the Spirit would move each of you to give to where He is calling you.