

Rich Toward God

Parable People

Luke 12:13-21

The man in this parable comes to Jesus wanting him to solve a problem with his brother and his inheritance, but Jesus turns the question back toward the man himself: "Be on guard against all kinds of greed." How often do we ask God to solve a problem in a way that serves our own agenda? Jesus invites us to stop looking at someone else and instead examine what may be happening within our own hearts.

1. Where are you most tempted to compare what you have with what someone else has, or to want God to intervene so that you come out ahead?
2. Jesus tells us to "be on guard" against greed. What might greed look like in our lives beyond simply wanting more money?

The parable begins with an interesting twist: **the land** of a rich man produced abundantly. The man certainly worked hard, but Jesus invites us to cultivate humility about our possessions and wealth by recognizing all we may have received in our lives, such as education, family, health, mentors, opportunities, relationships, intellect, and countless other gifts. Rather than comparing ourselves to others, we can consider the fruitfulness of the land God has given to us.

1. What are some of the gifts, people, opportunities, or circumstances that have contributed to the "fruitfulness" of your life?
2. The rich man has more than he needs, but when he asks, "What should I do?" he can only imagine building bigger barns. How might a life formed by Christ answer that question differently?

Parables open our imagination to what the kingdom of God is like, and this one asks us a challenging question: **What is your money for?** The things we value and establish become the rudder that guides the direction of our lives. As we are formed in Christ, generosity can become less of a choice we wrestle with and more of an instinctive response to who we are becoming.

1. How much of our lives can be dominated by the same logic as the rich man, simply making what we already have bigger?
2. What would it look like for you to intentionally build a desire to be **"rich toward God"** into the way you think about your finances, possessions, time, and future?

