

Bible Stories for Adults

The Foolish Rich Man

Luke 12:13-34

Opening

- Gathering: Why do the wealthiest people in the world keep working hard to get richer?
- Today's Focus: Jesus taught that riches on earth are nothing in comparison to riches in heaven.
- Key Verses: *Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.* Luke 12:15
- For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* Luke 12:34

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Wisdom of God (*Luke 15:1*)

- Besides His powers, what attracted people to Jesus that was evident from His childhood?
Luke 2:46-47, 52
- What happened when the Jewish leaders tried to use His reputation for wisdom against Him?
Luke 20:20, 26, 39-40
- Why were they unable to trap Him in a bad answer to a difficult question?
1 Corinthians 1:25 (18-25)
- Besides the Jewish leaders who tried to trap Him, did anyone else come to hear Jesus' wisdom?
Luke 15:1
- How many people were present to hear Jesus' wisdom in today's story?
Luke 12:1

The Judge (*Luke 12:13-14*)

- What request of Jesus' wisdom prompted the story in today's lesson?
Luke 12:13
- How did Jesus wisely respond to this request?
Luke 12:14
- The term *man* was a severe form of address. Where else do we see this word used?
Luke 22:54-62

The Inheritance (*Numbers 27:8-11*)

- Why was the man wrong in looking for Jesus' wisdom in this question?
Numbers 27:8-11
- Did God leave any questions about how an inheritance should be given?
Deuteronomy 21:15-17
- Using Israel and the land as an example, what did people have to do to get their inheritance?
Leviticus 20:24
- Didn't the Israelites have to fight the Canaanites to get their inheritance?
Deuteronomy 4:37-38
- What condition did God have in His covenant for the Israelites to keep their inheritance?
Deuteronomy 6:13-15

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Our Inheritance (*Hebrews 9:15*)

What inheritance do we have as part of God's new covenant through Jesus?

Hebrews 9:15

Where will we receive our eternal inheritance?

1 Peter 1:3-4

Do we need to be as good as we can to receive this inheritance?

Galatians 3:17-18

How do we know that we will receive this inheritance?

Ephesians 1:13-14

What great Old Testament prophet understood the importance of the inheritance of the Spirit?

2 Kings 2:9

Greed (*Luke 12:15*)

Why was Jesus so bothered by this man's request?

Luke 12:15

With all of the other sins displayed around Him, why would Jesus be so upset at seeing greed?

Colossians 3:5

How important is it to God that His people avoid greed, or covetousness?

Exodus 20:17

Why is the idolatry of greed such a horrible sin to be avoided?

Ephesians 5:5

Greed - An Unforgivable Sin? (*Luke 18:24-27*)

How could simple greed keep someone from going to heaven?

Luke 16:13

Is there any way for a greedy person to be saved?

Acts 3:19

How easy is it for someone to turn from greed?

Luke 18:24-25

Does this mean it is impossible to be rich and go to heaven?

Luke 18:26-27

The Rich Fool (*Luke 12:16-21*)

What story did Jesus then tell to make sure the people understood His point?

Luke 12:16-20

How does this story fit with Jesus' message on greed? (Reread with emphasis on *I* and *my*)

Luke 12:16-19

How does God show this rich farmer that his wealth is a foolish god?

Luke 12:20

Is Jesus saying here that it is wrong to be wealthy and to prepare for the future?

Luke 12:21

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Stored Treasures (*Matthew 6:19-21*)

How does this rich farmer fit a description David gave of an evil man?

Psalm 52:7

Do only rich or cut-throat people need to hear this lesson?

Matthew 10:37-38

What treasures should the rich farmer have stored?

Matthew 6:19-20

Why would treasures in heaven be so secure?

Matthew 6:21

Seeking Riches (*1 Timothy 6:7-8; Luke 12:22-32*)

What should we remember when we are tempted to focus on storing treasures on earth?

1 Timothy 6:7

There are no pockets in a shroud. You don't see a U-Haul behind a hearse.

How much earthly treasures should it take to make us content?

1 Timothy 6:8

What did Jesus say after the parable that tells how much we should worry about these needs?

Luke 12:22, 30-31 (22-31)

Besides giving us these things, what more valuable thing has God given us?

Luke 12:32

Getting Rich (*1 Timothy 6:9-10*)

What about all of the people who aren't content with food and clothing and want to get rich?

1 Timothy 6:9

Will being a Christian and going to church every week keep up out of this trap?

Matthew 13:22

Is this because money is so evil?

1 Timothy 6:10

Being Rich (*1 Timothy 6:17-19*)

What if we have more than basic needs? Do we need to get rid of our material wealth?

1 Timothy 6:17

What should we remember about our wealth?

Acts 17:24-25

Why might God bless us with material blessings and wealth?

Genesis 12:2

How does Paul describe this to Timothy?

1 Timothy 6:18

What does this do to the treasures we are storing up?

1 Timothy 6:19

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Rich or Poor (*Proverbs 30:7-9*)

Did Jesus agree that giving from what God gives us can store treasures in heaven?

Luke 12:33

Does this mean that we can get to heaven by giving money to others?

Luke 12:34

In conclusion, should we ask to be rich to bless others or to be poor to keep from temptation?

Proverbs 30:7-9

What was the one material request Jesus included in His example of how to pray?

Matthew 6:11

Closing Prayer

For Further Study (*Luke 12:22-30*)

What six reasons did Jesus give why we should not worry about material things?

Luke 12:22-23

Luke 12:24

Luke 12:25-26

Luke 12:27

Luke 12:28

Luke 12:29-30

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. In what ways have I been greedy?
(*Luke 12:13-15; Proverbs 15:27; 28:25; 29:4; Ezekiel 33:30-31; Mark 4:18-19; Ephesians 5:1-5; Colossians 3:5; 1 Peter 2:11; 5:2; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 2:15-17*)
2. What accomplishments and achievements am I most proud of?
(*Luke 12:16-21; Deut. 8:10-14; Romans 4:2-5; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; 4:7; 13:4; Ephesians 2:8-9*)
3. How have I tried to become rich?
(*Luke 12:21; Deut. 8:17-18; Proverbs 11:16; 23:4; 28:8, 20; Matthew 6:19-24; 1 Timothy 6:6-10*)
4. In what ways am I rich?
(*Luke 12:19, 21, 34; Psalm 119:72; Proverbs 15:6; 1 Corinthians 1:4-5; 2 Corinthians 8:9; Ephesians 1:18; 3:8; Hebrews 11:26; Revelation 3:17-20*)
5. What do I do with the riches God as given me?
(*Luke 12:19, 32-34; 16:10-13; Genesis 12:2; Psalm 49:16-20; Proverbs 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 9:10-14; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; James 5:1-6*)