

Church of God Sunday School

PARABLES OF JESUS: THE RICH FOOL

Luke 12:13-21

The rich man thought to himself, "What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow [store] my fruits?" Then the rich man thought of the answer to his problem: "This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods."

Sadly, the rich man said nothing about helping other people with his extra crops. He was only thinking about himself. (How many times did the rich man speak of himself, saying "I" or "my"?)

Next the rich man said to his soul, "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." He had many riches laid up for the future, but what was he doing about his soul? Was he getting ready for eternity?

People might have thought this man was wise. He was making a lot of money, and he was saving for the future. What did God call him? "Thou fool!" The rich man thought he was going to live for many more years, but God told him that he was going to die that night.

Now who would get all his earthly possessions, the crops in his barns, and all his money? Once he died, could the rich man take any of those things with him? Would his possessions help him get into Heaven?

Jesus ended the parable by saying, "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Jesus told us to "lay up . . . treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:20). Treasures in Heaven cannot be stolen, and they will not get old or perish.

Where your heart is (what you love the most in life) is where you are laying up your treasure. Do you love the things of life—money, possessions, or pleasures—more than you love the things of God—reading your Bible, praying, and going to church? Where are you laying up your treasure?

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth . . . but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."*

—Matthew 6:19-20  
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Have you ever heard someone say, "If I only had a million dollars, I would be happy"? Have you ever said, "If I could just have that toy or that game, I would be happy"? Many people are working hard to have many treasures here in this life, but they are failing to prepare for eternity. Our story today is about a rich man who did just this.

As Jesus was teaching a large multitude of people, a man spoke up and said, "Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me." (An inheritance is possessions, like money and land, that children receive when their father dies.) Perhaps this man felt that he was being cheated, or perhaps he was being greedy, wanting more than his rightful share.

Jesus would not get involved in this legal matter, and He answered the man, "Who made me a judge or a divider over you?" Jesus did not come to earth to settle legal matters between people. (What is the real reason Jesus came?)

Jesus knew there was something more serious to teach the people than properly dividing someone's inheritance. Jesus told the people to "take heed, and beware of covetousness." To covet is to feel a strong desire to own something that belongs to someone else. "Thou shalt not covet" is one of the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses in the Old Testament.

Jesus warned that owning many possessions is not what life is truly about. Then, to help the people further understand, Jesus told a parable (story) about a rich man. When it came time to gather the crops from his fields, the rich man did not have enough room in his barns to store it all. His barns were already full!

Treasures in Heaven or Earth?

Draw a line from the treasures to show where they belong

Heaven



Praying



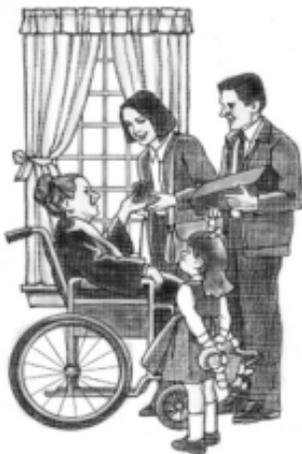
Saving Money



Reading the Bible



Attending Church Services



Visiting the Sick



Planting Crops

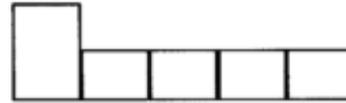
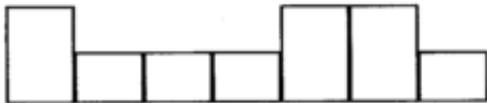
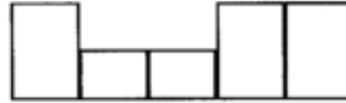
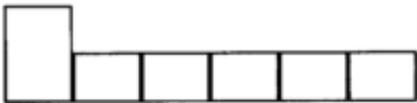
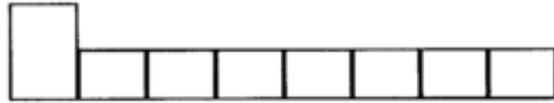
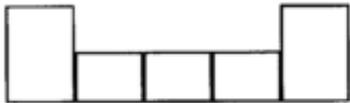


Leading a Soul to God

Earth



Match the Words From the Word Bank to the Word Shapes



Word Bank

Treasure
Covet
Rich Fool

Parable
Earth
Heaven

Jesus
Full Barns





The Rich Fool