

**Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!**  
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC  
Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.  
October 27, 2024

Text: Luke 12:13-21

Purpose: We need to realize our life is on loan from God. We will have to give an account for the things we have done and not done in this life. The Rich Fool, did not consider God nor his neighbor, in his prosperity. He was only concerned about himself. God calls that kind of person a “Fool.” All that he worked for is in the hands of another. We have been given a warning, not to trust in the riches of this world, rather trust in God, who sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem us from our sinful self.

Steve Farrar, in his book, “Family Survival in the American Jungle” wrote,

Now I lay me down to sleep,  
I pray my Cuisinart to keep.  
I pray my stocks are on the rise,  
and that my analyst is wise.  
That all the wine I sip is white,  
and that my hot tub’s watertight.  
That racquetball won’t get too tough,  
that all my sushi’s fresh enough.  
I pray my cordless phone still works,  
that my career won’t lose its perks.  
My microwave won’t radiate, my condo won’t depreciate.  
I pray my health club doesn’t close,  
and that my money market grows.  
If I go broke before I wake, I pray my Volvo they won’t take.

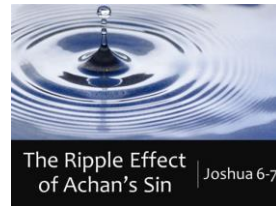




As time goes on, it seems the one thing people are obsessed with is getting more, and more. All through the land we hear, “Gimme, Gimme, Gimme!”

This greed disease has always been around, even as far back as the children of Adam and Eve. The Lord told Cain to be careful because sin is at the door wanting to overtake him. Yet Cain allowed greed, selfishness, and envy to overtake him and he killed his brother.

When the Israelites entered the Promised Land, the Lord allowed Israel to be defeated by the inhabitants of Ai because one man, Achan, had seen a beautiful Babylonian garment, silver and gold, in the spoils of war, and hid it for himself. The Lord judged Israel along with Achan’s family because of the sin of one man.



When the Lord asked a teacher of the Law what he thought the greatest commandment was, the reply was, “*Thou shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. And you shall also love your neighbor as yourself.*” Jesus replied, “*Upon these two, rest all the law and the prophets.*”

As we go through life, we are instructed to put God first in all we do. We are to consider God when we wake up, we are to consider God when we eat, we are to consider God when we prosper in business, we are to consider God when

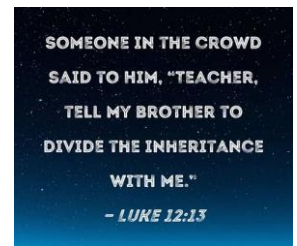
we lay down to sleep, because we know we all have an appointment with God when we die. Secondly, we are to consider our neighbor and their needs. We are to become concerned about how our neighbor is doing, that we treat them in the same manner we treat ourselves.

How are you doing in putting God first and your neighbor second?



At the heart of greed is the removal of God and neighbor and only being concerned and consumed about your needs and wants. The cry of greed is “Gimme.” It is probably one of the earliest words a child learns – “Gimme.” It is probably one of the deepest longings in our soul because it speaks to our very selfish nature and desire. “Gimme.”<sup>1</sup>

One day, Jesus was teaching a large multitude about how God loves us and knows the numbers of hairs on our head. He is encouraging believers that when they go before magistrates, they don’t need to fear because the Holy Spirit will guide you when you face accusations. In the midst of this dialogue, a man speaks up and asks Jesus to “*tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.*” (v. 13)



I have to smile when I read this because even Jesus could not keep some people’s attention. I am sure today; your mind may be a million miles away. You may be thinking about business, your bills, a family argument, or a sunny

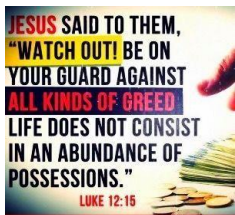
day at the beach. Jesus was interrupted to resolve an inheritance dispute.

According to the law of the day, the elder brother would receive two-thirds of the inheritance and the younger brother would receive one-third. But this man isn't asking Jesus to listen to both sides and make a righteous judgment; he is asking Jesus to take sides with him against his brother. People have a way of wanting to use Jesus to put their relatives in line. I'm going to tell you a little secret – Jesus didn't come to run everybody's business.



This guy didn't want what was fair, he didn't want what was right. He was GREEDY! His share wasn't enough. What he was entitled to

wasn't enough. In case you didn't know, there are two ways to get enough in this life: One is to accumulate more and more, the other is to desire less. But we're greedy. We can't pass up a deal. The only reason a great many American families don't own an elephant is that they have never been offered an elephant for a dollar down and easy weekly payments.



Jesus said to the man, *“Man, who made Me a judge or arbitrator over you? Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”* (v. 14)

Proverbs 21:26 describes the difference between the greedy and the righteous. *“He covets greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare.”*

Ecc. 5:10 says, *“He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver. Nor he who loves abundance, with increase. This also is vanity.”*

Solomon, who was the writer of these two pieces of wisdom, was the wisest and richest man that ever lived. He saw the folly, or foolishness of greed and abundance.

Charles Swindoll has pictured it this way, “Picture a shipwrecked sailor on a life raft in the middle of the ocean. His terrible thirst impels him to drink the salt water, but it only makes him thirstier. This causes him to drink even more, which makes him thirstier still. He consumes more and more of the salty water ... until, paradoxically, he becomes dehydrated and dies.”<sup>2</sup> Greed works in a similar way in our life.



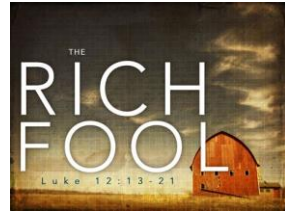
**The one who dies  
with the most toys  
...still dies.**  
www.AbundDoomBye.com

Malcolm Forbes was merely reflected our society morals when he said, “The one who dies with the most toys wins.” I would add: “still dies.” There is no enjoyment for the dead in what they leave behind.

Paul reminded Timothy, *“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”* (I Timothy 6:10)

Our Lord, Jesus Christ wanted to drive home the point of greed by sharing a parable known as the “Parable of the Rich Fool.”

## I. The Rich Fool found himself in a ... Prosperous Condition<sup>3</sup>



Jesus said, “*The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.*” (v. 16)

Jesus has not said being rich was wrong. He has not said owning land is wrong. He has not said producing a good yield on your property is wrong. Jesus is simply identifying the current situation – the man is prosperous.

This man apparently earned his living honestly. He did not gain his earnings through the lottery or through being dishonest. He probably was the one mentioned in Psalm 49:18, “*Though while he lives he blesses himself, for men will praise you when you do well for yourself.*”

The day of prosperity is probably the greatest test of a man character than the days when he faces adversity. When things are going well, we need to carefully guard our hearts and make sure we are putting God first, and our neighbor next.

## II. The Rich Fool found himself in a ... Present Dilemma

“*And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?”*” (v. 17)



The dilemma is a common one. Sometimes we prosper when we go about our daily work. Sometimes the seed is planted at the right time, the rain comes at the right time,

and the soil pushes out the crop in abundance. What are you going to do now that things are doing well?

The man thought within himself. He only considered himself. He did not realize that God is the discerner of the hearts of man. He didn’t realize that the things we think in secret will be revealed openly. He didn’t incorporate God or his neighbor in his plans. He only schemed and planned within himself.

He looked at the fields and they were bursting with grain. He had to do something, so he set about with his plan.

## III. The Rich Fool Had A ... Settled Purpose

“*So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.’*” (v. 18)



The die was cast. The plan was made. If you notice the words this man used, he was focused on “I” and “my” exclusively. There was not room for anyone else in this mans business plans. There is no place for God in these plans. There is no recognition of the needs of his neighbors. It is all about “I” and “my.”

In all the planning this man made, it was the fact that he left God out of the equation that resulted in God’s rebuke of this prosperous, foolish man.

Psalms 14:1 says, “*The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’*”



This rich man may not have said there is no God, but his actions spoke loudly. He saw how productive his fields were. They apparently were greater than in the past. His barns had been sufficient to take care of the prior years yield, but now he thought this growth pattern would continue. Usually in the area of agriculture, you will have a few good years and then a few bad ones. This short-sighted plan tripped him up because of greed.

#### IV. The Rich Fool was caught up in ... Self-Congratulation

*“And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” (v. 19)*

EAT  
DRINK  
and be  
MERRY

This rich fool in Jesus’ parable was only concerned about satisfying himself. He was not really speaking to his soul; he was speaking to his fleshly desires and how he would be able to satisfy them for many years.

He was patting himself on the back way too hard.



The most dangerous word in the English language is "tomorrow." No one knows if tomorrow will ever come for them. There is an old story of three apprentice demons who were to be sent to earth on a mission.

They were telling Satan what they proposed to do deceive people. One said, **"I will tell everyone there is no God."** "It won't work," Satan said. "In their hearts they know there is.

The second one said, **"I will tell them there is no hell."** "That won't work, either," Satan said. "Even in this life they have tasted the agony and sorrow of hell."

The third one said, **"I will tell them there is no hurry."** "Go," said Satan. "Tell them that and you will ruin them by the millions."

The rich man already has plenty of grain and goods. He does not have to live in the moment. He has barns for his future. They may not be as big as he would like, but he has plenty to eat, drink and be merry. The man already has enough wealth to enjoy life. But his greed has clouded his vision. He wanted more of the wrong things.



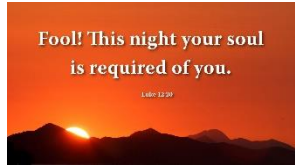
A pastor was invited to dinner in the home of a very wealthy man in Texas. After the meal, the host led him to a place where they could get a good view of the surrounding area.

Pointing to the oil wells dotting the landscape, he boasted, "Twenty-five years ago I had nothing. Now, as far as you can see, it's all mine." Looking in the opposite direction at his sprawling fields of grain, he said, "That's all mine." Turning east toward huge herds of cattle, he bragged, "They're all mine." Then pointing to the west and a beautiful forest, he exclaimed, "That too is all mine."

He paused, expecting the pastor to compliment him on his great success. The pastor, however, placing one hand on the man's shoulder and pointing heavenward with the other, simply said, "How much do you have in that direction?" The man stared blankly for a moment, then hung his head and confessed, "I never thought of that." <sup>4</sup>

There are many people that make this same huge mistake in life.

## V. The Rich Fool had a ... Terrible Awakening



*“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you, then whose will those things be which you have provided?’” (v. 20)*

The handwriting was now on the wall and the man was speechless. There was no answer because God had the final say about his life. This prosperous man, who in the eyes of his neighbors and community, was living the successful life, was now gone.

Psalm 52:7 describes this type of man. *“Here is the man who did not make God his strength, but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness.”*

Covetousness is a kind of lunacy that makes men fools in the sight of God. Greed blinds the eyes of many men and women today. Some people make some big mistakes in life:



- 1- In planning for themselves, they forget others.
- 2- In considering their material goodies, they forget the Giver.
- 3- In providing for their bodies, they forget their soul.

“Greed is “the logical result of the belief that there is no life after death. We grab what we can while we can however, we can and then hold on to it hard.”<sup>5</sup>



“Leo Tolstoy once wrote a story about a successful peasant farmer who was not satisfied with his lot. He wanted more of everything. One day he received a novel offer. For 1000

rubles, he could buy all the land he could walk around in a day. The only catch in the deal was that he had to be back at his starting point by sundown.

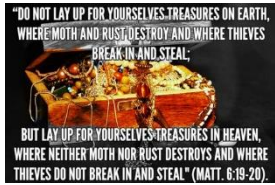
Early the next morning he started out walking at a fast pace. By midday he was very tired, but he kept going, covering more and more ground. Well into the afternoon he realized that his greed had taken him far from the starting point. He quickened his pace and as the sun began to sink low in the sky, he began to run, knowing that if he did not make it back by sundown the opportunity to become an even bigger landholder would be lost.

As the sun began to sink below the horizon he came within sight of the finish line. Gasping for breath, his heart pounding, he called upon every bit of strength left in his body and staggered across the line just before the sun disappeared. He immediately collapsed, blood streaming from his mouth. In a few minutes he was dead.



Afterwards, his servants dug a grave. It was not much over six feet long and three feet wide. The title of Tolstoy’s story was: How Much Land Does a Man Need?<sup>6</sup>

## VI. The Rich Fool Received ... The Lord's Application



*“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God.”*  
(v. 21)

To make it our life's business to live only for self-interest is pure unadulterated madness. We are rich towards God when we realize we are already rich because of the *“unsearchable riches of Christ.”* (Eph. 3:8)

We are admonished not to sell our souls birthright to heavenly and eternal treasure for the “much goods” of this world. If you set your heart upon them, you will only find you have sold it for a bowl of soup much as Esau did.

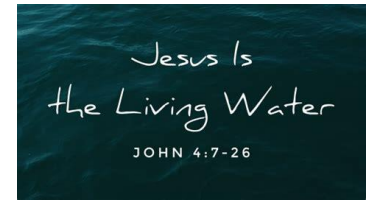
The time of judgment had come and Jesus rebuked this foolish man. He failed to heed the warning scripture, *“For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it.”* (Ecclesiastes 2:21-23) All that we have will be left to others when we die.

Billy Graham once said, “I have never seen a U-Haul behind a hearse.”



I read of three men that perished in the summer heat of Death Valley. Deputies found their bodies 7 miles, 14 miles and 17 miles from their abandoned car. In leaving their car to seek help, the three had tragically headed in the wrong direction, going toward a ranch house they had passed 30 miles back. But just a mile in the other direction was a grove of trees and a spring of water!

Jesus said to the Samaritan woman in John 4:13-14, *“Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst...”* Jesus is the water of life! The waters of this life don't satisfy and they don't last! BUT Jesus SATISFIES AND HE IS LASTING!



So many people are heading in the wrong direction in life. They keep on looking for pleasure from this world and they will eventually end up dead. But if they would just turn and head the other direction, where the living water can be found, they would find true satisfaction and eternal life!

Our life is not our own. Our life is a loan which must be returned to God. Our attitude toward this life shows our commitment to God. Do possessions have a stranglehold on you? Or are you headed in the direction of the living water?

We have been warned. Jesus said, *“Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”* (v. 15) Let us not make the mistake the Rich Fool did!

If you began the sentence, “Now I lay me down to sleep”, what would your next line be?



**LET US PRAY**

## Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Portions of sermon taken from [www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com) Gimme, Gimme by John Beehler

<sup>2</sup> Charles Swindoll & Ken Gire. Study Guide. "Living Above the Level of Mediocrity."

(Anaheim, CA; Insight for Living, 1994). p. 83

<sup>3</sup> Outline from Handfuls on Purpose, Vol. V, page 157-160.

<sup>4</sup> Several illustrations taken from sermon, The Folly of Seeking the Comfortable Life, by John Hamby

<sup>5</sup> Sir Fred Catherwood. Evangelicals Now, September, 1994,

<http://www.bible.org/illus/g/g-83.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Bits and Pieces, November, 1991 - <http://www.bible.org/illus/g/g-83.htm>