

## “THE RICH FOOL”

1. Text: Luke 12:13-21
2. A man speaks up and wants the Lord to intervene in a family conflict. He will not be drawn into it (not His mission).
3. Warning concerning covetousness. Then a parable.
4. Calls rich man a fool. Figure of speech: oxymoron or an expression that has within it a seeming contradiction: white blackbird, nice gangster, good Samaritan. Rich fool may sound like one to us. But Jesus calls this rich man just that: a fool. Let’s see why He would call him that.

### I. **Because He Was Greedy.**

1. Verse 15. Covet literally, “the thirst for wanting more.” It’s greed.
2. Ecclesiastes 5:10 He who loves silver will not be satisfied with silver.
3. Greed like drinking sea water.

### II. **Because He Ignored How He Was Blessed.**

1. Verse 18: my crops, my goods. Verse 16: the ground and God yielded plentifully.
2. Had no appreciation of how his wealth produced. Note: not evil means.

### III. **Because He Was Ego-centric.**

1. Verses 17-19. In NKJV eleven times “I” or “my.” Totally absorbed in self.
2. Verse 17 “He thought within himself.” Self-talk usually good for us.
3. Notice there is absolutely no thought for anyone else: no wife, children, friends, family, poor. “Edith lived in a little world bounded on the north, south, east, and west by Edith.”

### IV. **Because He Ignored The Spiritual Realm.**

1. Verse 19. No thought of God, religion, godliness, grateful recognition, grace.
2. Matthew 4:4 Man does not live by bread alone.
3. “My soul” (verse 19) versus Ezekiel 18:4 “All souls are mine.”

### V. **Because He Ignored His Stewardship.**

1. Stewardship is the recognition that all we are or have has been entrusted to us (and is not really ours). The fool thought all totally belonged to him.
2. And he misused his wealth. Had lots but decided to try and keep it all, store it up. Mark 4:19 “The deceitfulness of riches.”

### VI. **Because He Was A Hedonist.**

1. Verse 19 Take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.
2. Hedonist from the Greek word for pleasure. Belief that purpose of life is pleasure, enjoyment.

### VII. **Because He Forgot Life Is Contingent.**

1. Verse 20. Contingent means conditional, possible, uncertain. You may live another 30 years or die tonight. Tomorrow: world’s most dangerous word.
2. He said, “for many years.” God said, “this night.”
3. James 4:13-15 tomorrow we don’t know.

### VIII. **Because He Forgot God Commands Souls.**

1. Verse 20 Soul required, commanded. God called; it came.
2. Confidence in flesh?

### IX. **Because He Thought He Could Control The Future Of Things.**

1. Verses 19 and 20. He had a plan for himself and future.
2. Irony: Lord asks who now will have what the fool provided.

### X. **Because He Laid Up Treasure For Himself And Was Not Rich Toward God.**

1. Verse 21 is like Matthew 6:19-20 Treasures on earth or in heaven?
2. “Rich toward God” - in relation to himself.

Conclusion:

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