

SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Greatest Stories Ever Told

The Parables Of Jesus

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Study Schedule Jan/Feb 2021

Date	Topic	Scriptures
1/13/2020	The Good Samaritan	Luke 10: 25-37
1/20/2020	Parable of the Rich Fool	Luke 12: 13-21
1/27/2020	The Rich Man & Lazarus	Luke 16: 19-31
2/3/2020	The Widow & the Judge	Luke 18: 1-8
2/10/2020	The Pharisee & the Tax Collector	Luke 18: 9-14



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This Week's Lesson – January 20, 2021

Parables: The Greatest Stories Ever Told

Lesson 6:

Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12: 13 – 21



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Introduction to Luke's Gospel

Author: Luke, a Gentile Physician wrote Luke and Acts (Luke 1:1-4, Acts 1:1-3)

Date of Writing: between A.D. 58 and 65.

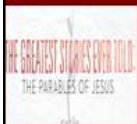
Purpose of Writing: Luke intends to demonstrate that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of all.

Practical Application:

- Luke About Jesus' parents, His birth His ministry to all and His death and resurrection.
- Luke gives us a portrait of our compassionate Savior and His Ministry to the poor and the needy.
- To Follow Jesus' example of seeing to the needs of others



Luke



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What Is A Parable?

PARABLE = a story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson or moral (told by Jesus in the Gospels)

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Overview of Luke 12 :13 – 21

“Teacher, Tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me!”



Jesus Tell The Parable of the Rich Fool
“Take heed and beware of covetousness...”



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Read Luke 12: 13 – 21

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Group Discussion: What fears do people have that keep them focused on making and having “enough” money?

- **Fear Of Being Defined By Your (Low) Bank Account Numbers.**
- **Fear That You Lack Resources When Hard Times Come.**
- **Fear Of The Stress Of A Serious Financial Challenge.**
- **Fear That The World, Your World, Will Fall Apart Without Enough Money.**



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1. Describe everything we know or can infer about the man who comes to Jesus (vv. 13-15).

- **Superficially Religious:** He came to Jesus, seeing Him as an authority from God but only for his own purposes.
- **Secretly Greedy:** His motive was money and possessions, not justice or the glory of God.
- **Selfishly Uncompassionate:** The father recently died. The man showed no grief or compassion for his brother/family.

Note: Jesus' reply ("Take heed and beware of covetousness...") indicates that the man had improper motives and priorities.



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2. How would you describe the experience of covetousness or greed? Why is it dangerous?

Covetousness/Greed

Greek: *pleonexia* Pronunciation *ple-o-ne-kse'-ä*

Definition: *greedy desire to have more, covetousness, avarice, fraudulency, extortion*

Points To Ponder:

- Greed comes out of a fear that God's resources and love are in short supply.
- In this fear we think of ourselves and not of others.



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2. How would you describe the experience of covetousness or greed? Why is it dangerous?

Covetousness/Greed

- It priorities things above the worship and service of God.
- It puts money and possessions in the place of God.
- It pushes us to sinful thoughts and actions to obtain money.
- It prevents us from gratitude, generosity, love, and freedom from fear.

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 (1 Tim 6:10) NKJV

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3. How would you evaluate the actions of the rich man in verses 16-18?

- **Logical:** On the surface it makes sense to think about the future (saving, investing, etc.).
- **Practical:** Making room for this great harvest for storage is practical. (Faith also includes doing the practical).
- **Individual:** The pronouns “I” and “my” indicates his thinking only of himself instead of God or others.

Note: The man’s actions were logical and appropriate, although we can detect some of self-centeredness in verses 16-18.

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4. How would you evaluate his attitude in verse 19?

- **Internal**: He thinks of and talks to himself, not to the God who has created Him.
- **Egotistical**: “My Soul”, “Soul – you have many goods” thinking that his soul and his goods belong to him and not to God.
- **Sensual**: His priorities are not on eternity or spiritual things – but on leisure and earthly pleasure.

*Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth...
When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Col. 3:2 – 4)*



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5. During times of prosperity, why is it easy to feel secure and at ease?

- **Self-Sufficiency**: We are confident in what we have or have done, instead of looking to and depending on God.
- **Satisfaction**: When our lives (and our bellies) are full, we are compelled be at ease (“Fed dogs nap”).
- **Short-Sightedness**: We can believe that our current prosperity will never change (COVID-19, 2008 recessions, Natural Disasters...)

He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like foliage. (Prov. 11:28)



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6. How does God expose the man's false sense of security (v. 20)?

“Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?” (v. 20)

- **Reality:** While it seemed logical and practical from the world's perspective, God exposes it as foolish “[You] Fool!”
- **Finality:** It's not your soul, And I am calling it home. Death is the final chapter for everyone that we need to be ready for.
- **Eternity:** It is foolish to cling to the things of this world – for we will leave them all behind in eternity.

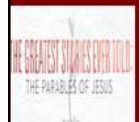


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7. What does it mean to be “rich toward God” (v. 21)?

- **Rich In Faith:** Trusting God to provide all things for this life, and the assurance of eternal life in Christ.
- **Rich In Love:** The Love of God overcomes the world and helps us to love and share with others.
- **Rich In Hope:** The steadfast hope in Jesus makes us confident that our future is greater than our present
- **Rich In Good Works:** We use things to show our love of God - serving His church and loving His people.

...be rich in good works ... storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life (I Tim. 6:18 – 19).



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7. How does “being rich toward God” help to free us from “all kinds of covetousness/greed”?

- **Free To Be Content:** We don’t have to run with “*the Joneses*”, because in Christ we have more than enough.
- **Free To Be Generous:** God has blessed us so that we can also be a blessing by being generous to others.
- **Free From Selfishness:** We understand the everything we have come from and belongs to God.
- **Free From Worry:** We no longer have to be overly concerned about things – knowing that our good God will provide.



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8. What practical steps can you take to become spiritually rich?

- **Giving** Our Income/Finance Into The Things Of God.
- **Investing** Our Time & Energy Into Doing The Work And Will Of God.
- **Using** Earthly Riches To Show How Much We Value God.
- **Trusting** That Our Security Is In God.
- **Praising** And **Worshipping** God As Our Treasure/Riches.



“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matt. 6:33

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Keys For Living

- Right standing with God and being content with the blessings we've received from Him is the key to real joy in this life (I Tim. 6:6).
- While there is nothing wrong with having riches or possessions, we need to be careful to not allow the riches and possessions to have us.
- When we make our primary focus seeking and serving Jesus and others, is like laying up riches in heaven that we will get to enjoy for all eternity.



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