

The Parable of the Rich Fool Man's Life Consisted not in the Abundance of the Things Which he Possessed

Riches that are ordained by God are accompanied by wisdom and discretion made available by God on how to use them. But riches that are the product of greed will end up in a miserable way. Let us read this passage from the gospel of Luke which includes also a parable of Jesus and let us learn important lessons:

“1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. 2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. 3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. 4 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. 5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. 6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? 7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. 8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: 9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God. 10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven. 11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: 12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say. 13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me. 14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you? 15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. 16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:1-21 KJV)

Here is in the midst of the crowd, Jesus our Lord and Savior, the wise and good teacher was teaching His disciples important lessons and was giving warning and directions of what they needed to do in certain circumstances, giving them their assignments and encouraging them to go on in life trusting God and serving Him and living their lives for Him.

“1 In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of

all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.” (Luke 12:1 KJV) Here when the people came and gathered around Him He started to teach His disciples and give them important lessons, and the purpose of such was to attract the attention of the crowd and see who among them will be interested to listen and take heed of the lessons that he was teaching to His disciples, and such will indicate the interest of the person who would show a respond. Christ here warned His disciples about the false teaching and the hypocrisy of the Pharisees.

“2 For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known.” (Luke 12:2 KJV) This is another fact Jesus told to His disciples that nothing covered or hidden will not be revealed and be known. So they cannot hide anything shameful because one day it will be exposed to the public and they will be put to shame.

“3 Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops.” (Luke 12:3 KJV) People go and hide in dark places and speak in the ears so they will not be heard, but here Jesus warned His disciples that even such will be exposed, and what was spoken in darkness will be heard in light and what they spoke in the ears will be heard on the housetops. Therefore they needed to be careful of what they needed to speak so when it will be known if they had said the right thing then they will be commended.

“4 And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do.” (Luke 12:4 KJV) He was speaking to His disciples calling them His friends to encourage them and to assure them that they should not be afraid of men who to the maximum can kill the body, and after that they cannot do more. That means He was teaching them neither to be afraid nor to be loyal to men.

“5 But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.” (Luke 12:5 KJV) Here He gave them and to us today the utmost warning who they and we should be afraid from; that they and we should be afraid of God who can kill the body and cast the soul to hell, and so He was asserting to them and to us to be afraid of God.

“6 Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?” (Luke 12:6 KJV) Here He was assuring His disciples by telling them that if five sparrows were sold by two farthings, the currency they used at that time, and not one of the five is forgotten by God then how much more they and we today.

“7 But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.” (Luke 12:7 KJV) Jesus told His disciples and He is telling us today that they and we even our own hair are counted, because God is so concerned about us, therefore we should not be afraid for we are more valuable than many sparrows. This here Jesus wanted to assure us not to be afraid of men and not to be worry about our needs and the affairs of our lives that God will take care of us and our needs as we go along His Word and follow His ways.

“8 Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: 9 But he that denieth me before men shall be denied

before the angels of God.” (Luke 12:8-9 KJV) Since Jesus is so faithful toward us that He came in order to let us know God, and He died on the cross for our sins to give us eternal life, then we need to be also faithful to Him, that is why we need to acknowledge Him and confess His name before the people that He, Jesus, is the Creator, the only true God and we need to proclaim His Word and His will to the people and in such He will confess us and acknowledge us before the angels of God who are around the throne of God in Heaven. But if we will deny His name before the people and not acknowledging that He is our Lord then He will also deny us before the angels who are around the throne of God in Heaven and in such we will loss our eternity.

“10 And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven.” (Luke 12:10 KJV) Here Jesus was telling to the disciples if any one speak against Him, such a sin will be forgiven if the person repent of it, possibly this is because people for certain times may not recognize Jesus being a divine person since He appeared as man. *But if anyone will blaspheme the Holy Spirit who is doing the works of God and who can see clearly what God is doing and he is not confessing that because his pride hindering him but in his mind he is fully convinced but he still blasphemed against the Holy Spirit then such sin will not be forgiven, and such a person has no eternity.*

“11 And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: 12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.” (Luke 12:11-12 KJV) Jesus told further His disciples and is telling us also that we will be persecuted and will be brought infront of authorities so that we can testify more about Jesus, that we should not be worried of what we are going to speak and what to say because at that time the Holy Spirit shall teach us what we need to speak and say.

So here Jesus was motivating His disciples and moving them and us today to live our lives in this world in order to glorify Him, to tell people about Him and to preach His Word and His will and to confess Him before the people and be willing even to be persecuted for His sake. And He also assured them and us today not to worry for God is with us and the Holy Spirit will guide us and will give His Word that we need to say when we put infront of authorities. While Jesus was fully engaged with His disciple with such a Heavenly concerned discussion and the crowd was hearing all that, one of them spoke and said the following to Him:

“13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.” (Luke 12:13 KJV) This man what he asked was nothing to do at all with all what Jesus was speaking and telling to His disciples. That man showed that he had no concern about all the Heavenly things and the priorities that Jesus placed before us that we need to live for Him, willing to stand against the traditional things of man in living and practicing His Word, and willing to preach His Word by our mouth confessing Christ to others and living as good testimony for Him. That man his concern was for the material things and not for the Heavenly things. He had already the basic things that he needed for life and Godliness. That man asked Jesus to speak to his brother to divide the inheritance with him. Most likely he got his share but he was not satisfied, or still he did not get his share and it was not the suitable time to divide the inheritance. We cannot judge much about the real situation of that inheritance but we are aware that the Jewish had the teaching to divide the inheritance

and there was no worry about such matter. But from the answer of Jesus to that man and what Jesus spoke about after that we can conclude that the man was greedy and was coming to Jesus just to use Him to get material blessing without having concerns about the spiritual duties and responsibilities that He placed before us and require us to do. That is why we read the following: *“14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?” (Luke 12:14 KJV)* Jesus came with the mission to save mankind, to bring sinners back to God, to die for our sins to give us eternal life, and these are the things Jesus wants us to be busy with and not with other worldly and material things especially if our needs are met by Him. Jesus rebuked that man, and was telling him not to use Him, as many people do for a wrong purpose. Jesus can teach people God’s Word that speak about inheritance and can direct them how to do it, but here He chose to rebuke the man and reprimand him for his request saying to him the following: *“Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you”*, because Jesus being God saw the greed in the heart of that man. For example if the man had not receive his inheritance and he wanted to receive his inheritance in order to use in urgent matter for God’s service, Jesus will not rebuke him and denied him his request in such a way, but He will help him. But when He saw his heart was not for such but for only temporal things then he rebuked him and gave the teaching to him and to others to be rebuked in order to repent and got corrected.

That man interrupted Jesus by this request: *“Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.”* The man was asking Jesus to intervene in a family dispute over sharing an estate. Who was this man and what the possibility of his identity especially after he was rebuked by Jesus?

1) The man did not know Jesus: That was why Jesus answered him, *“Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you”*, he misunderstood Jesus’ identity. Jesus is not a judge, a lawyer or an arbiter between men. Jesus is not a King Solomon who judges between the people by his wisdom. He is not just a teacher of the law, and He is not a mere ‘rabbi’ that speaks and judges people on material disputes. Jesus’ mission is not to teach people how to divide perishable things! *Therefore put it in your mind that Jesus is not with you as you go forward after material things.*

2) The man was in competition with his brother: Men are covetous to material possessions. Both the man and his brother perhaps were running to possess material things. But, not every inheritance is worth running for. In addition, the man’s request is full of greed and carries out the wish of one party against the other and even he was coveting other people shares and belonging. *“15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” (Luke 12:15 KJV)* *Put in your mind coveting is sin and God does not want you to covet other people belonging. “Take heed, and beware of covetousness”.*

3) The man is after a false inheritance: Jesus knew that the man did not understand the real purpose of life. He wanted to stores up things for himself. Jesus, when He said I am not a judge or arbiter, He wanted to say that he came to open the eyes of people from the blindness of worldly inheritance to the shiny way of living in the everlasting Heavenly kingdom.

4) The man’s virtual defect is the bondage of greed: If the competition between people about material things is moved from the bottom and floats on the surface, the dynamo will be the bondage of greed. Deep in our souls that ‘leech’ lies down silently and that is why the Lord

warns us: ***“15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” (Luke 12:15 KJV)*** Any mathematical details and formulas becomes the food in the mouth of that leech (i.e. the greed), which is not only present inside that man but almost in all people. But Jesus wants to give the radical solution. What Jesus saw in that man is the same as what He is seeing in other people's life around. Jesus when He said, ***“for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth”, He wants you to understand that to live a prosperous life does not need you to be rich and have many material things. Many rich people who have much material things and power they live miserable lives and many people who are poor and lack of many things they live a better life and are satisfied and content of what they have. God Himself makes life meaningful and fruitful, and happy are those who walk with God and who obey His Word and commands.***

This parable that Jesus gave was in respond to that request or a prayer from that man and He gave the following parable that underlines the stages of greed development:

“16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:16-21 KJV)

A. Initial produce: ***“The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully” (Luke 12:16 KJV)*** This is the beginning and the normal stage of life. Every one of us has a good crop, whether in pertains to material possession, knowledge, certificates, positions, relationships and so on that should be appropriately dealt with.

B. Serving the leech: To what we have, we want to add more, ‘like the leech that is never satisfied.’ ***“15 The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give.” (Proverbs 30:15 KJV)*** More money, more education, more friends, until the time we say, ***“I have no room where to bestow my fruits.” (Luke 12:17 KJV)*** Many are working hard to satisfy their greed and lust by accumulating things that they are not in need of and are not going to use in the future.

C. Slave to the leech: When they reach their goal of possessing certain assets and have no more places for it they will say, ***“18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.” (Luke 12:18 KJV)*** This is the stage where the greed really becomes a burden. It forces men to build their own walls, towers, and stores on earth with selfishness and pride. At this stage, a man's possessions will become a burden to him. His money becomes a source of trouble to him.

D. False security: In this final stage, the plenty of material that they have and the great effort that they had put in to collect it will make them say, ***“19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.” (Luke 12:19 KJV)*** Greed may serve on earth but this is not the currency used in Heaven. And the

time they feel that they are very rich is in fact when ‘they are empty, and their walls and towers are straw.’

My dear and beloved: “20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.” (Luke 12:20-21 KJV) Wealth cannot keep the angel of death away from the door. What is the benefit of these possessions? Can they be taken to the grave? ***“36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36 KJV)*** That is why we need to live our lives and to use all our resources wisely, not only for ourselves but for His name to be glorified and for His work to be propagated, and for the benefit of His people. We need to be rich toward God in living in holiness, in obeying His Word, doing His will and finishing His work.

Therefore in whatever stage you are you need to get rid of the covetousness and greed. Such kind of life does not glorify God and He will not be pleased with. Instead you need to find out how you can use whatever treasure God has given you to promote the works of God and to be rich in Him. ***“1 Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. 2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.” (Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 KJV)***

Death may come at any time, and Jesus may come at any time to take us, therefore you need to be ready, you need to be rich toward God, you need to renew your mind and start to think about the things that God is concerned with, to live for Him, to live in holiness, to be a good testimony, to reach the lost, to declare His Word, to be willing to suffer for Him, trusting Him that He will provide all your needs, and He will be with you even when you are persecuted, and He will give you His Word as you stand before the authorities and sure one day will be with Him in Heaven.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word and the teaching that I received in this message. Thank you for the rebukes, the corrections, and the admonishments that I received from you. Lord thank you for opening my eyes and directing me to what is your will and purpose for me in my life. Lord thank you for all the material blessings that you had given to me in order to be used for your glory.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your covetousness, greed, love of money, your worldliness and your love for worldly things. Repent and renounce your selfishness. Repent of your non concern for the things of God and your non willingness to suffer for Christ and to serve Him. Confess your non willingness to go along His will and the plan that He had for you. Repent of your non willingness to follow God and do the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins
_____.

Lord I commit myself to go along your ways and your Word and the principles that I learned in this message about finances. Lord I commit myself to use all my resources to serve you and not

to be enslaved with material things. Lord I am willing to share and give what is due for you. Lord I commit myself to use the resources you gave me to do the works of yours and invest in your ministries and to build up your church.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and got delivered from the bondage of greed and covetousness. Lord use their lives and their testimonies to attract others to you. Lord use all what they offer to you in your service and to build up your church and ministries. Lord continue to guide them into the whole will of yours in their lives. Lord protect them and provide all their needs so they will continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as a church and help us to continue to teach your people and to correct them and to admonish them with your Word. Lord we place all our material resources in your hand that you will use them for your glory and that we will have treasures in Heaven. Lord we thank you for all the workers and the disciples who committed their lives to serve you with us. Lord we pray that you will enable us to train them and use them according to your plan and purpose. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water Baptized and receive the Holy Spirit Baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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