

THE PARABLES OF JESUS
“THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL”
LUKE 12: 13-21

WHILE SPEAKING TO THE MULTITUDE AROUND HIM, INCLUDING HIS DISCIPLES, JESUS WAS INTERRUPTED BY A LISTENER WHO PRESENTED A MOST INAPPROPRIATE DEMAND. IT INVOLVED A DISPUTED QUESTION OF PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS, AND OFTEN THE DISPUTANTS WOULD SEEK OUT THE WISDOM AND ADVICE OF THE SCRIBES AND RABBIS ON SUCH MATTERS. KNOWING THAT JESUS WAS CONSIDERED TO BE A RABBI, THIS MAN SOUGHT OUT HIS VERDICT IN THE MATTER OF INHERITANCE. BUT JESUS REJECTED THE APPEAL AND INSTEAD WARNED THE MAN AGAINST THE COVETOUS SPIRIT WHICH MAKES AND MAINTAINS SUCH DISPUTES. THEN JESUS BEGAN TO SPEAK THIS PARABLE TO THE PEOPLE TO ILLUSTRATE HIS POINT.

I. HIS DESCRIPTION

THIS MAN WAS RICH AND SUCCESSFUL, BUT HE WAS ALSO COVETOUS AND ANXIOUS ABOUT HIS FUTURE. HIS COVETOUS NATURE LED HIM TO MAKE SOME WRONG ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT HIS WEALTH AND FUTURE AND ESPECIALLY SO AS THEY PERTAINED TO HIS ETERNITY. JESUS CALLED THIS MAN “A FOOL” BECAUSE HE FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THAT IT WAS GOD, NOT HIMSELF, WHO HAD BLESSED HIM.

II. HIS RESOLUTION

NOTICE ALL OF THE PERSONAL PRONOUNS—“MY” AND “I”. HE MISTAKENLY THOUGHT THAT HE WAS THE SOURCE OF ALL OF HIS BLESSINGS AND WEALTH. HE WAS SO WRAPPED UP IN HIMSELF THAT HE COULD NOT SEE BEYOND THE HORIZON OF HIS OWN EASE, COMFORT, AND PLEASURE. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ARE SO MANY LIKE HIM IN OUR WORLD TODAY!

III. HIS DELUSION

THIS MAN MADE SEVERAL FATAL ERRORS:

1. HE MISTOOK HIS BODY FOR HIS SOUL.
ALL OF HIS GOODS WERE LAID UP FOR HIS BODY, BUT HIS SOUL WAS BANKRUPT.
2. HE MISTOOK HIMSELF FOR GOD.
HE KEPT SPEAKING OF “MY” AND “I”—NO MENTION OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOD.
3. HE MISTOOK TIME FOR ETERNITY.
HE WAS THINKING HE HAD “MANY YEARS” LEFT TO LIVE, BUT GOD SAID, “TONIGHT.”
4. HIS MISTOOK THE PURPOSE OF HIS LIFE. HE THOUGHT IT CONSISTED IN THE ABUNDANCE OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS.

IV. HIS SUMMONS

THE SUMMONER WAS GOD, OF COURSE. WHAT DID THE SUMMONS CONSIST OF?

1. THE NAME---“FOOL.”
2. THE MESSAGE---“THY SOUL IS REQUIRED.”
3. THE TIME---“THIS NIGHT.”
4. THE QUESTION---“THEN WHOSE...?”

INSTEAD OF BARNES, THIS MAN HAD A BURIAL!

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



APPLICATION

JESUS SAW NO SECURITY IN THINGS. HE KNEW THAT MATERIAL THINGS COULD RUST; THAT MOTHS AND OTHER CREATURES COULD DESTROY THEM, AND THAT THIEVES COULD STEAL THEM. HE KNEW THAT MEN COULD DIE AND NEVER AGAIN HAVE THE USE OF THAT WEALTH. HE DOESN'T WANT US TO BUILD OUR HOUSES ON SAND. HE WANTS US TO REMEMBER THAT THE ONLY TRUE SECURITY IS IN THE WILL OF GOD. GOD WANTS US TO ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF LIFE, BUT NOT TO DEPEND ON THEM.

IT IS ALL A MATTER OF THE HEART. JESUS SAID, "FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO"(MATT. 6:21). THE EYES SEE WHAT THE HEART LOVES. IF WE LOVE GOD AND PUT HIS WILL FIRST IN OUR LIVES, THEN WHATEVER MATERIAL BLESSINGS WE RECEIVE WILL ONLY DRAW US CLOSER TO HIM. WEALTH WILL BE OUR SERVANT, NOT OUR MASTER, AND WE WILL INVEST IN THINGS ETERNAL.