

BEWARE OF COVETOUSNESS

LUKE 12

Text: Luke 12:20

(Luke 12:20) "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?"

Introduction

In verse 15 the Lord Jesus warned of covetousness; now he gives an example. There are many commendable things about the rich man mentioned here. The truth is that ordinarily wealth is a sign of hard work, and lack of laziness. The farmer who has or grows a better crop than the other farmers usually works harder, and keeps his fences better, and plows the field earlier, and spends more time and effort than the other farmers.

We sometime forget that here was a man who worked hard, who saved things carefully.

It is to his credit that he was very careful to preserve what his field produced. He built barns to preserve the fruit of his fields.

We would suppose that this man attained what the covetous man would have hoped to attain in verse 15. Ah but what a mistake he made. He supposed that he would have many years to enjoy what he had earned.

(James 4:13-15) "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: {14} Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. {15} For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

I suppose it is to his credit that he felt that now he could retire after a a life of labor. But all that he was thinking about was food for his belly and clothes for his back and a house for his body - without thinking about the eternal welfare of his soul. So God said that he was a fool - a fool simply in that he never considered eternity and died unprepared. He was a fool to have spent so much time and thought and labor in laying by money and property for the future. Oh how much better would have been his diligence had he made sure of his salvation and had he made use of his goods so as to have treasure in Heaven. Hid did not.

(Luke 12:21) "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

He was prosperous but pitiful. He lived a life that was rich but it ends in regret.

Why?

(Mark 8:36-37) "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? {37} Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Notice:

1. HIS HAPPINESS WAS LIMITED TO THE HAPPENINGS OF EARTH

- A. Everything seemed to be going so well.
 - 1. He enjoyed a plentiful portion
 - 2. A drought would have devastated him.
 - 3. Too much rain would have ruined him
- B. Success in farming made him happy.
- C. Too often our happiness & peace is based on our surrounding and happenings of earth.
- D. Only faith in Christ equips us for tough times.

(Romans 8:38-39) "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, {39} Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

2. HIS HOLDINGS WERE LIMITED TO THE HARVESTS OF EARTH

A. His prosperity produced problems.

1. He didn't know what to do with success.

2. Too many are ruined by success.

B. He suffered from 1 trouble

1. His new barns would advertise his success and affluence.

C. He forgot that everything that he along with his harvest was perishable.

D. Trusting Christ as your personal Saviour prevents perishing.

(John 3:16) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

3. HIS HOPES WERE LIMITED TO THE HORIZONS OF EARTH

A. His prepared for retirement but not the day of reckoning.

1. He looked to the future with confidence

2. Take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

B. His plan for the future was faulty.

1. He planned on ease, eating, and entertainment.

2. But at death it all ended.

4. HIS ETERNAL HOME WAS DETERMINED BY HIS HALFHEARTEDNESS WHILE ON EARTH.

- A. He neglected to plan for eternity.
- B. His eternal destiny was determined at death.

(Ecclesiastes 11:3) "If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be."

- 1. That night he faced death, the grave, and Hell.
- C. He left all that he had worked for and saved all behind.
 - 1. Others would now own all he had worked so hard to gain.
- D. He lost everything, including his soul.
- E. He is screaming from the pit of Hell today.
 - 1. Not about his barns, or crops, or belongings, but because of the torments, and fearing another person will join him there.

Read Luke 16 about another rich fool

Close:

Many today are like this foolish man. They invest their lives in temporal trinkets, instead of coming to Christ and gaining eternal treasures.

Real riches are laid up in Heaven.

(Luke 12:21) "So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

(Matthew 6:19-34) "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: {20} But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: {21} For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. {22} The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. {23} But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! {24} No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. {25} Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for

your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? {26} Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? {27} Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? {28} And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: {29} And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. {30} Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? {31} Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? {32} (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. {33} But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. {34} Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

(2 Peter 3:9) "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

(2 Corinthians 6:2) "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)"