



Gary Inrig – The Parables (Accumulating My Treasure)

Read the Chapter in Advance of the Weekly Study. Make a Mental Note or Jot Down Something That Struck You – “Strange, New or Different”.

Week 6 – Read Chapter Six: “Accumulating My Treasure” (The Rich Fool). Read Luke 12:13-21

Opening Prayer: Begin the session with a prayer, asking Holy Spirit to bless our time, talk and reveal the truth - of any “treasures” – physical, mental or emotional. To examine our relationship with possessions, money or otherwise – that we may be holding onto tighter than our one true treasure in Heaven.

Overview: We can be successful in the world's eyes yet be called a “**fool**” by God. Through the parable of the Rich Fool in **Luke 12**, we take a close look at what truly defines us. The rich man in Jesus' story had everything our world tells us to pursue—wealth, security, and the freedom to enjoy. Yet God labels the man – a “**fool**”! Pretty harsh stuff! Are we so focused on accumulating what we cannot keep that we lose sight of what we get to keep? In Luke 12 -vs’s 22-34 Jesus goes on to point out that in seeking God's kingdom first, we are assured that our Heavenly Father already knows our needs and will always provide. He concludes that – where your treasure is, that’s where your heart will ultimately reside – either here on earth or in Heaven!

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” - Jim Elliot

SOME KEY POINTS:

- ❖ Jesus came to bring people to God, not possessions to people.
- ❖ God owns life and only loans our earthly existence to us; He can call His loan - any time.
- ❖ Materialism is not limited to a particular generation or economic class; it pervades our contemporary culture.
- ❖ Worry is foolish (in that we forget who God is), and worry cannot change outcomes.
- ❖ The alternative to worry is not carelessness but to trust in God's provision.
(We demand ... “Life Insurance” – He only offers ... “Life Assurance”)
- ❖ The antidote to greed is trust - Seeking God's Kingdom replaces anxiety with confidence about our future.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Share one possession from your childhood that you treasured. Why was it so important to you?
Do you still have it?



2. Gary states, "The term greed means simply a consuming desire to have more." - How is greed different from legitimate planning or wise stewardship?

3. Why do you think Jesus refused to settle the man's inheritance dispute? What does this tell us about His mission and priorities?

4. Count how many times "I" and "my" appear in the rich man's thinking (Luke 12:17-19). What does this reveal about his worldview? (compare w/James 4:13-15)

5. Why does God call this successful farmer a "fool"? What was so foolish about his approach to life? Was it not a reasonable thought? What might he have skipped doing?

6. We live in a society that constantly tells us "You can have it all" and "you deserve it all." Share how you might feel pressure to accumulate or consume. How do you typically respond?



7. Where's Your Treasure? D.L. Moody said you can tell where someone's treasure is within 15 minutes of conversation. If someone listened to your conversations this past week, what would they conclude about where your treasure is?
-
-
-

Things to Think On this Week-

"All of our fret and worry is caused by calculating without God." — Oswald Chambers

- **1. Do Thoughts Follow The Money or Money Follow Your Thoughts?** This week -take note of what you spend and where – what are your thoughts that either precede or proceed - “the spend”. (Do you worry? Rationalize? Regret? Deserve? Was Necessary? How does it make you feel?)
- 2. Is It a Need or Want?** “Make a list of things you currently want to buy and ask:
"Is this a need? Is this a want? Is it an investment in my eternal treasure? Or will moth & rust destroy?"
- 3. Are You a Worrier or a (Kingdom) Warrior?** Each time you catch yourself worrying about money, provision, or possessions this week, stop and “*take that thought captive ...*” acknowledge the concern, but be reminded of God's character (He knows, He cares, He promises to provide). Then Pray and seek His **will and way** by replacing that thought with His Word. “... *seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (His right way of doing things), and all these things (those things we worry about) shall be added to you.*” - Matthew 6:33

Closing Prayer: *(this prayer is only a suggestion - please feel free and be encouraged to pray your own as the Holy Spirit leads)*

Father God – thank You for Your insight into these areas where we need to trust you more than money. Help us to always be reminded – where our true treasure lies – the place where our hearts will reside - ... in Jesus name we pray – amen!