

THE RICH MAN

Luke 12:1-34.

LESSON 44 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: “Be content with such things as ye have” (Hebrews 13:5).

BIBLE REFERENCE

Luke 12:1-34

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.

22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on.

23 The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.

24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

25 And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit?

26 If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest?

27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith?

29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind.

30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

NOTES

Our Needs Supplied

One day as Jesus was preaching to the people the crowd was so great that they were actually stepping on one another. He taught the people many things they should know so that they could go to Heaven someday. One very important point He taught them that day was that people should not try to lay up many riches here on earth. He taught them that making sure of a home in Heaven was much more important than having much money in the bank or owning many fine things.

He talked to them about the birds — they have plenty of food and don't have to work hard for a living. Jesus sees to it that they have plenty to eat. He also told them that the lilies of the field do not have to work — yet they wear the most beautiful clothing. So Jesus told the people not to worry about what they should eat or drink, because He knows our needs, and will give us everything we need if we do what He tells us to do.

The Rich Fool

Jesus told the people a story of a man who became very rich. His crops were so great that he did not have enough room in his barns for all his fruit and goods. He was storing away as much money and goods for old age as he could gather together. One day he decided to pull down his barns and build bigger ones so he would have more room. Then he could "eat, drink, and be merry." He did not think of what God would say about that.

Just then a Voice spoke to him. It was the Voice of God telling him that he was going to die that night and leave all his goods behind. God called him a fool, because he had laid up treasures here on earth but did not have any treasures up in Heaven. No doubt, he had thought only of himself and how much money he could earn. Perhaps he was too busy making money to have time to help the poor people and the suffering ones. That night when the rich man died, he left all his riches behind — he could not take even a penny with him. When he was born into this world, his fists were closed tightly; but when the time came for him to leave this world, his hands were wide open.

A Rich Man's Dream

A story is told of a rich man who dreamed that he died and went to Heaven. An angel met him and led him by the hand to show him his home. As they walked along the golden streets they passed by many beautiful homes. Presently he saw a man standing in the doorway of a very lovely home, and recognised him as his former servant. The rich man thought: If my servant has such a lovely home, surely I will have a larger and more beautiful one.

They kept on walking through the beautiful city and the homes were smaller and smaller until there was just a tiny cottage. The angel told the rich man that this was his home. He was very much disappointed when he saw it. But the angel said: "This is all the material you sent up to build it." It taught him a lesson. Of course this was only a dream and no one will be disappointed in Heaven. No one will be jealous. But it is good for us to remember that we must lay up our treasures in Heaven.

Our Treasure

The treasure in Heaven is our love for God, our love for His Holy Word, our love to work for Him our love to be with Him always. We lay up treasure in Heaven when we help others to go there — by bringing children to Sunday School where they may learn about God and about having their sins forgiven. Another way to lay up treasure is to visit the sick people and give them money or food if they need it. Jesus said that if we did kind things to others we were doing them to Him. If we bring many people to Jesus we shall shine "as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3). If we trust Him, have our sins forgiven, Jesus will give us what we need to eat, give us a home, and clothes to wear, and all that we need on earth; but, best of all, He will give us the lovely things He has for us in Heaven.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the rich man decide to do? Luke 12:18.
2. What did God say to him? Luke 12:20.
3. Does Jesus want us to worry about food and clothing? Luke 12:22, 28, 29.
4. What does He tell us to seek after? Luke 12:31.
5. Who will give us everything we need? Philippians 4:19.

LESSON RESOURCES

TITLE

THE RICH MAN

Lesson 44

Luke 12:1-34

The Wise Man And The Foolish Man

WATCH AND PRAY 88



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The Wise Man And The Foolish Man

**The wiseman built his house upon a rock,
The wiseman built his house upon a rock,
The wiseman built his house upon a rock,
And the rains came tumbling down,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
But the house on the rock stood firm.**

PICTURE

