



**CHRISTIAN
ENDEAVOUR**
for Christ and the Church



The Parables of Jesus

Don't be greedy!

The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

Teaching Aim

To warn against the dangers of greed.

Setting the Scene

Have you ever been told, "Don't be greedy"? What does the word "greedy" mean? Greedy people are selfish and always wanting more money and possessions for themselves. On one occasion a man asked Jesus to make his brother share his possessions with him. Jesus did not interfere for He knew that, if both were not greedy, there would be no problem. He went on to warn of the danger of being greedy and told the story of a farmer to illustrate it.

Rich farmer

Read Luke 12:16-17. The farmer had planted his seeds and then came the harvest when the crops were to be gathered in.

What sort of crop had the ground produced?

Churches usually have a special service at harvest time. What are the people doing at these services?

- Thanking God for giving the right conditions for the fruits, vegetables, flowers etc. to grow.

Did this man thank God for giving him an abundant crop? - No mention of that.

How should he have felt? - Pleased, grateful.

How did he feel? - Worried.

Why was he concerned? - Barns not big enough to store the crops.

How could he have got around the problem? - by giving some of it to the poor or selling some of it and giving the money to those in need.

Do you ever think that you have too many toys or get too many presents for your birthday, Christmas etc.? What could you do about this? If you want to hold on to all your possessions and want even more and bigger gifts, then you are in danger of becoming greedy.

Ambitious farmer

Read vv18-19. Before long the farmer had found a solution to his problem but he hadn't asked God what he should do. When we have to make a decision, we should ask God to help us make the right one.

What did this farmer plan to do? - Build bigger barns.

What did he intend to do when the buildings were completed and filled with goods? - Take life easy

and enjoy himself for many years.

This man was rich and seemed to have everything going for him but he was selfish and thought only of himself.

Does God say that it is wrong to make money and enjoy it? - No, He says it is the love of money that leads us to want more and more money and possessions and to close God out of our lives.

Poor rich farmer

Read vv20-21. The farmer wasn't going to enjoy his wealth. God had a different plan for him - that very night he was going to die. Why did God call him a fool? - He had spent his time getting rich and feeding his greed but hadn't thought of anyone else. He thought that he was in control of his life and would live for a long time. God warns us that death can come at any time so it is very dangerous to put off asking Jesus to forgive your sins - see Proverbs 27:1. The best time to give your life to Jesus is now, when you are young, and then you can live the way He wants you to live. This man thought it was all about possessions but he found out too late that true happiness is found in trusting and obeying Jesus throughout your life so that you are ready to go to be with Him when death comes.

Summing up

Jesus told the story of a rich farmer to warn of the danger of greed. Everything was going well for the man but he still wanted more for himself. He had no thought of thanking God for giving him good crops and possessions nor of sharing them with others. God called him a fool for he was going to die and be shut out of heaven because he had shut God out of his life. Will you ask Jesus into your life now and follow Him?

Resources

Memory Verse

... "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15

Activities

- Under 8s Activity Sheet "The rich fool - 1".
- Over 8s Activity Sheet "The rich fool - 2".

Prayer Points

Thank God:

- That He loves us.
- For all the good things He gives us every day.

Pray for:

- People who are greedy and selfish.
- People in other lands who do not have enough food.

The Rich Fool

Wordsearch

Find the words below in the wordsearch.

FARMER

SINS

BIGGER

FOOL

HARVEST

GREEDY

RICH

BARN

JESUS

MONEY

F	A	R	M	E	R	H
J	L	O	O	F	I	A
E	S	I	N	S	C	R
S	G	O	E	D	H	V
U	I	S	Y	G	O	E
S	N	R	A	B	O	S
Y	D	E	E	R	G	T
B	I	G	G	E	R	D

The letters left over, reading from left to right , give us an important truth about God.

The Rich Fool

Fill a Gap

Replace the missing words with words from the list below:

refused anyone place rich brother life barns fool
parable greedy good

A person once asked Jesus to tell his b_____ to divide the inheritance with him . Jesus r_____ and told His listeners to be careful not to be g_____.

He also told them a p_____ about a certain rich man whose ground produced a g_____ crop. The man didn't know what to do for he had no p_____ to store his crops so he decided to tear down his b_____ and build bigger ones. He thought that since he had plenty he would take l_____ easy.

God said that he was a f_____ for that very night he was going to die and then someone else would get what he had prepared for himself.

Jesus said that is how it will be with a_____ who stores up things for himself but is not r_____ towards God.

Memory Verse

Starting with the letter 'W' fill in the letters below to find the memory verse

-----!

-----;

-----:

1215 Watch out Be your guard against all kinds of greed man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions Luke 12:15