

# MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

## ***THE RICH FOOL***

**Luke 12:13-21**

The Bible as a whole & Jesus in the Gospels say a great deal about money – what we are to think of it, how we are to use it, etc.

According to God, is money evil? Wealth bad? Is it sin to be rich? No.

The attitude of our heart is the key.

We see this in the Parable of the Rich Fool.

### **1. A covetous appeal to Jesus**

A reasonable question for an ordinary rabbi (or a church session).

What Jesus sees in the question & questioner – covetousness:

He interrupts Jesus' serious teaching on discipleship,  
with a concern about earthly inheritance.

His heart is not set on God's kingdom, but earthly gain.

What is covetousness?

Desiring things of this world as the source of well-being,  
happiness, peace, self-esteem, and loving the things of this world  
above God (Paul: covetousness = idolatry).

### **2. The rich fool**

Jesus turns from speaking to the man, to addressing the whole crowd -

*The Parable of the Rich Fool.*

The rich man's surface problem – what to do with all his wealth.

His heart problems:

- a. No thankfulness to God nor thought of helping the poor.
- b. His trust in his wealth for security and happiness.
- c. His FOLLY - God's sentence upon him: "You fool!"  
Stored up for this life & ignored eternity & Judgment.

### **3. Christ's application to His hearers**

Antidotes & alternatives to coveting -

- a. Trust God instead of fretting
- b. Seek His kingdom (first) – contra the idolatry of coveting
- c. Give generously – the opposite of coveting, requires trusting God
- d. Set your heart on heavenly treasure – eternal fellowship with God

*<sup>9</sup>But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs. ....*

*<sup>17</sup>As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. 1 Timothy 6*