Lesson Eight: The Parable of the Rich Fool

Text: Luke 12:13-21

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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. (KJV)

Notes

1. What caused Jesus to teach this parable?

2. What is covetousness?

3. Why is "the abundance of the things" one possesses not a valid measure of the worth and value of ones life? What is a valid one? Why?

4. Was Jesus teaching that it is wrong to be rich? Explain.

5. Was Jesus teaching that it is wrong to be at ease or to enjoy leisure activities? Explain.

6. Was Jesus teaching that it is wrong to save and provide financial security for oneself and his family? Explain.

7. Why did Jesus call the farmer in the parable a "fool?"

8. How does one "lay up treasure for himself?" Where is one to "lay up treasures?" How does one do it?

9. What does it mean to be "rich toward God?"

10. What is the central lesson of this parable?

11. How do verses 22 through 34 of this chapter apply to what Jesus taught in this parable?

12. What application(s) can be made of this parable today?