

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:15-21 (NIV)

Treasure In Heaven

What would it mean for you to be rich? What sort of riches would you like to be yours? What riches are worthy of your pursuit? How will you invest your life so that true riches will be yours? Those are all very good questions. **These questions all need an answer.** Why is that? **If you leave these questions unconsidered and unanswered you will misspend your life.** Those who do not think carefully about these questions and do not adequately answer them will greedily and foolishly pursue all that the world has to offer. They will live for comfort. They will pursue pleasure. They will be driven to acquire worldly wealth and material possessions. Money and material possessions will be their scorecard in a game they cannot win. **Does living that kind of life seem wise to you?** No, not at all. **Why is that?** I know that I brought nothing into this world. I know I will not be taking any money and material possessions out of this world. No worldly treasures will come with me into the next life. This world is not my true home. Earthly possessions are not mine. I am just passing through this very short life. **That is all true.**

I noticed you did not say that you would not be taking anything out of this life. You said that no worldly treasures will come with you into the next life. That's true. **What haven't you said? What will you take out of this life?** I will take the fruit I bear for you out of this life. As I bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name, I will be storing up treasure in heaven with you. That is why someone could be very poor in this life and very rich in the next life with you. The opposite is also true, someone could be very rich in this life and very poor in the next one. Only those who go and do your will, will be storing up treasures in heaven with you. They may be poor in this world but will be rich in heaven with you. That is what I want. That is my desire. I will go and do your will. I will live my life with and for you. Living the life, you have called me to live is worthy of my best effort and all out pursuit. **Yes, it is. Store up treasure in heaven with me.** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, I do not want my life to be about greedily pursuing worldly possessions. I want to store up treasure in heaven rather than here on earth. Help me to bear abundant fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Help me to know and do your will. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Rich Toward God*

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

NIV Luke 12:15-21

Becoming Like Christ *Rich Relationship With God*

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

NLT Luke 12:15-21

Becoming Like Christ *Rich Toward God*

And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

NRSV Luke 12:15-21

Becoming Like Christ *Rich To God*

And He said to them, Guard yourselves and keep free from all covetousness (the immoderate desire for wealth, the greedy longing to have more); for a man's life does not consist in *and* is not derived from possessing overflowing abundance *or* that which is over and above his needs. Then He told them a parable, saying, The land of a rich man was fertile *and* yielded plentifully. And he considered *and* debated within himself, What shall I do? I have no place [in which] to gather together my harvest. And he said, I will do this: I will pull down my storehouses and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain *or produce* and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many good things laid up, [enough] for many years. Take your ease; eat, drink, *and* enjoy yourself merrily. But God said to him, You fool! This very night they [the messengers of God] will demand your soul of you; and all the things that you have prepared, whose will they be? So it is with the one who continues to lay up *and* hoard possessions for himself and is not rich [in his relation] to God [this is how he fares].

AMP Luke 12:15-21

Becoming Like Christ *Rich Toward God*

Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not *even* when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions." And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man was very productive. "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' "Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years *to come*; take your ease, eat, drink *and* be merry.'" "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your soul is required of you; and *now* who will own what you have prepared?' "So is the man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

NASB Luke 12:15-21

Becoming Like Christ *Rich Toward God*

And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

ESV Luke 12:15-21

Becoming Like Christ *Rich Toward God*

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

NKJV Luke 12:15-21

Becoming Like Christ *Not With God*

Speaking to the people, he went on, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed. Life is not defined by what you have, even when you have a lot." Then he told them this story: "The farm of a certain rich man produced a terrific crop. He talked to himself: 'What can I do? My barn isn't big enough for this harvest.' Then he said, 'Here's what I'll do: I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll gather in all my grain and goods, and I'll say to myself, 'Self, you've done well! You've got it made and can now retire. Take it easy and have the time of your life!' "Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?' "That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."

MSG Luke 12:15-21

Becoming Like Christ *Not In Heaven*

Beware! Don't always be wishing for what you don't have. For real life and real living are not related to how rich we are." Then he gave an illustration: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. In fact, his barns were full to overflowing—he couldn't get everything in. He thought about his problem, and finally exclaimed, 'I know—I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones! Then I'll have room enough. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "Friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Wine, women, and song for you!"' "But God said to him, 'Fool! Tonight you die. Then who will get it all?' "Yes, every man is a fool who gets rich on earth but not in heaven."

TLB Luke 12:15-21

Becoming Like Christ *Rich Toward God*

Then Jesus said to them, "Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. Life is not measured by how much one owns." Then Jesus told this story: "There was a rich man who had some land, which grew a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What will I do? I have no place to keep all my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and other goods. Then I can say to myself, "I have enough good things stored to last for many years. Rest, eat, drink, and enjoy life!"' "But God said to him, 'Foolish man! Tonight your life will be taken from you. So who will get those things you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be for those who store up things for themselves and are not rich toward God."

NCV Luke 12:15-21

Rich Toward God

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Luke 12:15-21

In Context: *Read Luke 12*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'" Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:15-21 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Then he said to them, | "Watch out! | Be on your guard | against all kinds of greed; | a man's life | does not consist | in the abundance | of his possessions." | And he told them this parable: | "The ground of a certain rich man | produced a good crop. | He thought to himself, | 'What shall I do? | I have no place | to store my crops.' | "Then he said, | 'This is what I'll do. | I will | tear down | my barns | and | build bigger ones, | and there | I will store | all my grain | and | my goods. | And I'll say to myself, | "You have | plenty of good things | laid up | for many years. | Take life easy; | eat, drink and be merry.'" | "But God said to him, | 'You fool! | This very night | your life | will be demanded | from you. | Then who will | get what | you have prepared | for yourself?' | "This is how | it will be | with anyone | who stores up things | for himself | but is not | rich toward God." Luke 12:15-21 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I do not want my life to be about greedily pursuing worldly possessions. I want to store up treasure in heaven rather than here on earth. Help me to bear abundant fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Help me to know and do your will. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you made plans for your life without any thoughtful, prayerful, consideration of God's will for you?

Why will it be a tragic and regrettable mistake to make your life all about greedily storing up treasures on earth?

How will be driven to store up earthly treasures hinder your ability to store up heavenly treasures?

Why will acquiring material things never be able to give hope and meaning and purpose to your life?

How are you asking God to guide the activities of your life so that you will be able to be fruitful for Him?

How is the Lord making you able to store up treasure in heaven by being fruitful for Him in this life?

What specific deeds of yours are bearing fruit for God's kingdom and bringing glory to His name?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Store up treasures in heaven by going and doing what the Lord asks of you in this life.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will help you to store up treasures in heaven by being fruitful for Him in this life.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you are storing up treasures in heaven by being fruitful for God.

Close With Prayer:

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you store up treasure in heaven with God by going and doing His will.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will store up treasure in heaven with you by going and doing your will.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I store up treasure in heaven with you today?
