

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: Parable of the Rich Fool

TEXT: *Luke 12:13-21*

Instructions: *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: The last parts of us to be converted are our pockets and purses. Many of us are so secretive about our feelings on the subject of money that we have concealed them even from ourselves in our unconscious minds. Unconsciously we yearn for more material things, while consciously we think we want Christ's kingdom. This parable illustrates a tension in the heart of every Christian, a tension affecting poor and rich alike. How do we resolve the conflict between our desires for earthly and heavenly treasure, earthly and heavenly security, kingdom values and the values of the world?

1. Why do you think people place such value on money and material possessions?
2. In Luke 12:13-21 that we read, people often asked rabbis for decisions about disputed points of law. Describe everything we know or can infer about the man who comes to Jesus (vs. 13-15).
3. How would you evaluate the *actions* of the rich man in verses 16-18? How would you evaluate his *altitude* in verse 19? What should our attitude be toward greed, and why (vs. 15)?
4. During times of prosperity, why is it easy to feel secure with tendency not to care much for spiritual things?
5. How does God expose the man's false sense of security (v. 20)? How does this parable illustrate that "a man's life does not depend on the abundance of his possessions"?
6. Is Jesus condemning material prosperity in this parable (v. 21)? Explain. Do you think it is possible to be prosperous without being greedy? If so, how?
7. What does it mean to be "rich toward God" (v. 21)? What could the man have done to increase his spiritual wealth?