

WHY THE RICH MAN WAS FOOLISH

Lk 12:16-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The man in Lk 12:16-21 had been blessed abundantly by God in material wealth
- B. Probably highly respected, honored and considered wise by men - at least by today's standards he would be
- C. Yet God said he was a "fool"
- D. So, in our lesson today, we want to consider some reasons why this man was called a fool

DISCUSSION:

I. HE FORGOT OTHERS

- A. His debates with himself show his interest was only in self (aprox. 15 personal pronouns used)
- B. God teaches us to love others and that we have the duty to help them if we can
 - 1. Second commandment - love thy neighbor as thyself Matt 22:37-39
 - 2. Do good to all men as have opportunity Gal 6:10
 - 3. Part of pure religion is being concerned about the unfortunate Jas 1:27
 - 4. Serving Christ is based on serving others Matt 25:41-46
- C. The judgment day will find many lost because they forgot others

II. HE FORGOT REAL JOY

- A. He thought he could really be happy by eating, drinking and indulging himself
- B. Real happiness is not found in these
 - 1. Solomon didn't find it in these things Eccl 2:3-11
 - 2. Happy is the man that endures for Christ Matt 5:11
- C. Money can buy a lot of things, but not love, a clear conscience or true happiness
- D. The Ethiopian found real happiness when he heard the gospel and obeyed it Acts 8:39

III. HE FORGOT HIS SOUL (its eternal nature)

- A. He thought of life only in terms of material things
- B. Man's soul is his most valuable possession Matt 16:26
 - 1. Worth more than the whole world
 - 2. Yet many exchange it for material things
- C. The Bible warns about the dangers of riches as far as the soul of man is concerned
 - 1. Hard for those who trust in riches to enter heaven Mk 10:24
 - 2. Desire to be rich makes us fall 1Tim 6:9,10
 - 3. Can't put trust in riches 1Tim 6:17-19

- D. many have forgotten their souls in their pursuit of riches

IV. HE FORGOT GOD

- A. His greatest fault was that he left God out of his plans
- B. We are taught to put the kingdom of God first and to love God above all others
 - 1. Seek first the kingdom Matt 6:33
 - 2. Love God supremely Matt 22:37
 - 3. Even above father and mother Matt 10:37
- C. Whatever our long-range plans may be, we must not leave God out. If we do we will experience eternal death like the rich man

V. HE FORGOT DEATH

- A. made plans for "many years" - yet he had only one day left
- B. We don't like to think about death - but we will die Heb 9:27
- C. Life is short even at its "longest"
 - 1. As a vapor Jas 4:14
 - 2. Even if we live a long life it is soon gone Psa 90:10

CONCLUSION:

- A. Death and judgment are sure and certain Heb 9:27
- B. Life is too short (brief and fleeting) and we need to be making preparations to meet God now Amos 4:12
- C. We must put God first and material things second to be pleasing to God