

The RICH FOOL

Luke 12:13-21

The STORIES JESUS TOLD

— INTRO

WELCOME TO WEEK THREE OF THE STORIES JESUS TOLD SERIES!

As you get ready to dig into the parable of The Rich Fool, take a moment to refresh yourself on (or even bookmark) the [COMA Overview](#) and [Worksheet](#) to help you navigate your group time together.

READ



AS A GROUP, READ LUKE 12:13-21

One person could read the whole passage, or you could take turns reading verse by verse. Note any initial thoughts or questions that come to mind. It's okay if you aren't super confident or clear; the Context and Message sections below will help clarify your journey through the text.

CONTEXT

After noting your initial observations, read through the context of the passage provided below. Note how these insights challenge or clarify your understanding of the story.

In this passage, Jesus is identified as a rabbi (Jewish teacher) and is speaking to a crowd of people, many of whom are Jewish. A man from the crowd calls out to Jesus seeking help for a dispute between himself and his brother regarding their inheritance. Under Jewish law, the older brother would typically receive double the inheritance of the younger brother (Deuteronomy 21:17), and it was common during Jesus' time for rabbis to be called upon to help settle legal disputes. Stories like this can be found in scripture dating back to the days of Moses. Instead of stepping into the middle of a family's legal dispute, Jesus seizes the opportunity to talk about what's at stake when considering our wealth and its impact on our lives.

OBSERVATION

With the text's context in mind, reread the passage together. When you're finished, pause for a few minutes to silently note your own observations and questions. Utilize the Observation questions listed on the [COMA Overview sheet](#) to guide you. Remember, we believe every word is inspired by God and included for a reason.

When your group is ready, share both your initial observations and how those were impacted by the context of the story. Share anything particularly interesting, curious, confusing, or convicting. Notice if there are any themes for you and your group.

MEANING

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TOGETHER AS A GROUP TO HELP DRAW OUT THE MEANING OF THE AUTHOR'S TEXT.

1. Does Jesus seem concerned with how wealthy someone is? Does Jesus indicate having wealth is sinful?
2. The man in the parable, very practically, wants to increase his capacity to store his wealth so he can live out his days leisurely and enjoy his good things. God forcefully responds by calling him a fool for this. Why would his desire be considered foolish by God's standards?
3. What's at stake when we hoard the wealth God has generously given to us?

Note: UTILIZE THE MEANING QUESTIONS ON THE [COMA OVERVIEW SHEET](#) FOR ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION, IF DESIRED.

APPLICATION

The rich fool's language, "My barn... my grain... my goods..." reveal a self-centered and self-serving perspective. When we step over the Faith Line and trust Jesus with our lives, everything we have belongs to him. Trusting God with our money, possessions, and time allows us to see how our blessings can be used to glorify God. This means the life we planned needs to be surrendered, reprioritized, and lived out more intentionally aligned with God's desires.

1. When do you find yourself more inclined to be greedy or have an abundance of possessions?
Are there any specific areas or items you gravitate toward?
2. With your tendencies in mind, how can you build up your guard against greed?
3. What might being "rich towards God" look like for you? What might you need to reprioritize or let go of to have a posture of generosity in your relationship with God and others?

PRAYER

Share one way you can take a step of generosity this week. Don't overthink it; keep it simple. Then, pray for God to help you take that step and continue revealing the value and benefits of a surrendered life with him. Thank him for the gifts you've received from him in your life and ask for help remaining open-handed with them knowing they belong to him.

KEEP GOING

Each week, we're providing additional resources to help you continue to learn how to read, navigate, and study Scripture beyond the stories Jesus told. We hope these additional "tools in your toolbelt" will help you engage in Scripture more clearly and consistently.

[NIV Starting Place Study Bible](#)
by Zondervan

An introductory exploration into studying God's word, this study Bible includes features designed to guide you through Scripture including book introductions, context and study notes, Q&A's, and character profiles.