



Normal Campus Sermon Study - 7.12.2026

Leader's Corner

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

Main Idea: Greed is far more subtle than we realize. Jesus invites us to move from storing up treasures for ourselves to becoming rich toward God through joyful stewardship, generosity, and trust.

Main Passage: Luke 12:13–21

Key Principle: A successful life is not measured by what we accumulate, but by our relationship with God and how faithfully we steward everything He has entrusted to us.

Main Practice: This week, intentionally move from “How much can I keep?” to “Who can I bless?” Invite God into every financial decision and choose generosity as an act of worship.

Prayer and Praise

Opening Prayer:

Gracious Father,

Every good gift comes from Your hand. Too often we cling tightly to what You have entrusted to us rather than holding it with open hands. Forgive us for placing our hope in possessions instead of Your faithful provision.

Teach us to be rich toward You. Shape our hearts to trust You completely, to recognize that everything we have belongs to You, and to become people whose generosity reflects the generosity of Jesus.

May Your Spirit free us from the grip of greed and fill us with joy as faithful stewards of Your Kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

Worship Suggestions:

- Christ Be Magnified
- Build My Life
- Take My Life and Let It Be

Group Discussion

Read Luke 12:13–21 together.

1. What first stands out to you about Jesus' response to the man asking about his inheritance? Follow-up: Why do you think Jesus addressed the condition of the man's heart instead of simply settling the dispute?
2. Jesus warns everyone—not just the man—to “watch out for all kinds of greed.” Why do you think greed is so difficult for us to recognize in ourselves? Follow-up: Which description from the sermon challenged your understanding of greed the most?
3. The rich farmer repeatedly talks about “I,” “me,” and “my,” while God and other people are completely absent from his thinking. Who currently has a voice in your financial decisions?
 - God?
 - Your spouse?
 - Trusted Christian friends?
 - No one?

How does inviting others into those conversations help protect your heart?

4. The sermon contrasted two definitions of greed:
 - Our definition: wanting more possessions.
 - Jesus' definition: wanting more than God and living primarily for ourselves.

How does Jesus' definition expose areas of our lives we might normally overlook?

5. The farmer assumed, “Extra equals mine.” How easy is it to make that same assumption today? Share a time when God prompted you to view your abundance as an opportunity to bless someone else.
6. Jesus never condemns wealth itself. According to this passage, what actually made the rich man a fool? How does this change the way we think about success, retirement, investing, or financial planning?
7. Read Proverbs 30:7–9 together. What do you think it means to establish your “enough”? How might contentment actually lead to greater freedom than continually pursuing more?
8. The sermon offered this simple rhythm: *Give First. Save Second. Live off the Rest.* What feelings does that statement stir in you? Where would trusting God in that order require the greatest faith?
9. Jesus says we are to be “rich toward God.” Practically speaking, what does that look like in everyday life—not only financially, but also with our time, abilities, influence, hospitality, and relationships?
10. Looking at the “rope illustration” of eternity, imagine the rich fool could speak to us today. What warning do you think he would give? What is one practical change you believe God is inviting you to make this week so your life reflects eternal priorities rather than temporary ones?

Practice

Together:

As a group, identify one tangible way you can demonstrate generosity this month. Ideas include:

- Supporting a family in need.
- Serving through a local ministry.
- Providing meals.
- Helping someone with unexpected expenses.
- Collecting supplies for a ministry partner.
- Blessing someone anonymously.

Pray together that God would make your group known more for open hands than full barns.

Individually:

This week, prayerfully work through these five reflection questions:

- Where is greed quietly disguising itself in my life?
- What is my current definition of “enough”?
- Is God truly part of my financial decisions?
- When I receive unexpected abundance, is my first instinct to store it or share it?
- What one act of intentional generosity is God inviting me to practice this week?

Then take one concrete step:

- Begin or revisit a giving plan.
- Have a conversation with your spouse about Kingdom generosity.
- Bless someone without expecting anything in return.
- Review your budget through the lens of stewardship rather than ownership.
- Thank God daily for His provision instead of focusing on what you still want.

Further Study

Supporting Scripture:

- Luke 12:13–34 — Treasures in Heaven
- Matthew 6:19–34 — Store Up Treasures in Heaven
- Proverbs 11:24–25 — The Generous Will Prosper
- Proverbs 30:7–9 — Establishing “Enough”
- Ecclesiastes 2:1–11 — Chasing the Wind
- 1 Timothy 6:6–19 — Godliness with Contentment
- 2 Corinthians 8–9 — The Grace of Generosity
- James 5:1–6 — Warnings to the Rich
- Acts 2:42–47 — Radical Generosity in the Early Church

Reflection Quotes:

“Greed is not measured by how much you have, but by how tightly what you have holds onto you.” — Tim Keller

“The issue is never ownership. The issue is always stewardship.” — Randy Alcorn

“Contentment is not having everything you want. It is trusting that God has already given you everything you truly need.” — Adapted from John Stott

Digging Deeper:

Throughout Luke’s Gospel, Jesus consistently treats money as a discipleship issue rather than merely an economic one. Wealth itself is never condemned; rather, Jesus repeatedly asks whether our possessions have become competitors for our hearts. The rich fool failed not because he prospered, but because he lived as though God were absent and his abundance existed solely for himself.

The invitation of this parable is not guilt—it is freedom. When we recognize that everything belongs to God, generosity becomes less about losing something and more about participating in God’s work. Those who are “rich toward God” discover that the greatest investment is not in larger barns, but in lives transformed by the generosity of the Kingdom.