



Bloomington Campus Sermon Study - 7.12.2026

Leader's Corner

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

Main Idea: Jesus teaches that life is not measured by what we possess, but by who possesses our hearts. Greed quietly tempts us to trust our wealth, while God invites us to become rich toward Him through lives of generosity, gratitude, and faithful stewardship.

Main Passage: Luke 12:13–21

Main Practice: Practice becoming “rich toward God” this week by loosening your grip on possessions and strengthening your trust in Him through generosity, contentment, and eternal perspective.

Leader's Note: Greed can be difficult to discuss because most people don't believe they're greedy. Throughout this discussion, help the group approach the passage with humility rather than guilt. Jesus isn't condemning wise planning or hard work—He's exposing the danger of allowing possessions to become the foundation of our identity, security, or hope. The goal isn't less responsibility, but greater surrender.

Prayer and Praise

Opening Prayer:

Gracious Father,

You are the giver of every good gift. Too often our hearts chase things that cannot satisfy while forgetting the One who gives life itself. Open our eyes today to see where our trust truly lies. Teach us to hold loosely what You have entrusted to us and to treasure Your Kingdom above everything else. Form us into people who are generous, grateful, and rich toward You. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Worship Suggestions:

- Build My Life – Pat Barrett
- Gratitude – Brandon Lake
- Christ Be Magnified – Cody Carnes

Group Discussion

1. If you suddenly received enough money to never worry about finances again, what would be the very first thing you'd do?
2. Read Luke 12:13–21 together. What initially prompted Jesus to tell this parable? How does the inheritance dispute reveal what was happening beneath the surface of the man's heart?
3. Jesus says, "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." What do you think our culture says life does consist of? Where do you see yourself tempted to believe that message?
4. The rich man repeatedly says "my" throughout the story. "My crops... my barns... my grain... my goods." What does his language reveal about his view of ownership? How is biblical stewardship different from ownership?
5. The rich man isn't condemned for being successful. So what actually makes him a "fool"? Which part of his thinking seems most dangerous to you?
6. In verse 20, everything changes with two words: "But God..." Why are those two words so significant? How does remembering God's perspective reshape our own plans?
7. The sermon identified the antidote to greed. What practices help cultivate contentment and generosity? How have gratitude, generosity, or serving others changed your perspective on money?
8. Jesus concludes by saying, "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." What do you think it practically means to be rich toward God? What would someone else's life reveal if they were watching yours?
9. Looking back over the sermon and passage, which statement challenges you most?
 - Life is not found in an abundance of things.
 - Greed quietly deceives us.
 - We make plans—but God holds our future.
 - Be rich toward God.

Why that one?

10. Personal Reflection Moment: If Jesus lovingly evaluated your heart today, what would He say you're currently trusting most? What is one step of faith He may be inviting you to take this week?

Practice

As a Group:

Choose one tangible act of generosity together this month. Ideas include:

- Supporting someone with a financial need.
- Serving a local ministry together.
- Collecting school supplies or groceries for families.
- Blessing someone anonymously.
- Inviting someone into your home for a meal.

Finish by praying for open eyes to notice the “Lazaruses at our gate” and the opportunities God gives to use our resources for His Kingdom.

Individual Practice This Week:

Spend - Before making a purchase, pause and ask: “Is this helping me become rich toward God?”

Thank - Write down five ways God has faithfully provided for you this year. Let gratitude become the enemy of greed.

Give - Practice intentional generosity this week. Whether it’s your time, encouragement, finances, hospitality, or possessions, bless someone without expecting anything in return.

Trust - Take one area where you’re tempted to find security outside of God and intentionally surrender it to Him in prayer each day.

Further Study

Supporting Scriptures:

- Ecclesiastes 2:18–23 — Wealth without lasting satisfaction
- Psalm 49:16–20 — Riches cannot redeem a soul
- Proverbs 11:24–25 — The generous prosper
- Matthew 6:19–34 — Treasures in heaven; do not worry
- 1 Timothy 6:6–19 — Godliness with contentment is great gain
- Hebrews 13:5–6 — Be content because God is with you
- James 5:1–6 — A warning against hoarding wealth
- 2 Corinthians 9:6–11 — God loves a cheerful giver

Helpful Quotes:

“Greed is not defined by what we possess, but by what possesses us.” — Randy Alcorn

“Money is a wonderful servant but a terrible master.” — Francis Bacon

“Contentment is not having everything you want; it is trusting that God has given you everything you need for today.” — Adapted from Puritan teaching

“The measure of a life is not its duration or accumulation, but its donation.” — Peter Marshall