



CAPITOL[®] COMMISSION

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CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

The Pleasure of God (*Part 1*) – Luke 12:13-21

Three years had passed. Crowds followed Christ closely watching Him, begging of Him, praising Him but not yet believing on Him. In Luke 12:1 we are told that there is a “multitude” pressing in on Christ. Thousands were surrounding Him at this time. Aware of their unbelief and too-easily satisfied hunger for the sensational, Jesus continued His conversation with His disciples pouring into them essential life-changing truths to center them on what was True. In this scene Luke draws our attention to the striking contrast of audiences: the euphoric crowd salivating for the next miracle and the maturing disciples frantic to sort this all out.

The tightly knit crowd wasn’t so dense that two brothers couldn’t elbow their way to the front to stand before Jesus. One brother dragging the other with him, no doubt, shouted out above the noise of the crowd a demand to Christ:

Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me. "But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry." ' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:13-21 NKJV

In these days it was the custom of the local Rabbis to settle cases of civil law that were in dispute within the villages so as to alleviate the vulnerability of the Jewish way of living that would be exposed if these cases were pressed into the Roman court of law. What is being asked here is not unusual from its first impressions when we understand Jewish culture. Apparently a family was in conflict following the grief and mourning of the passing of their patriarch.

His appetite was too small! He underestimated the riches in store for those who know Christ. Why would you argue for a birthright when the kingdom is yours? How blind this brother was to what Christ had been offering! Sure, matters of every day life need to be settled in a right manner, but if he had known and believed on the Lord to whom he was speaking, this matter of “rights” would not have been so dividing a dispute. His covetousness and greed now exposed by Christ was turned on its head when Christ explained to the disciples that what the heart of a greedy man desires is dismal compared to what the pleasure of God has in store for those who by faith trust in Him! (Vv. 31-32)

For the sake of illustration, let's imagine that you have infinite wealth. Can you imagine taking a little child by the hand and walking them into a toy store and promising them that they can have anything they want? You walk them down an aisle and the first toy of interest catches their attention, wins their heart, and off to the check-out you go. Little did they know that if they had asked for everything they could have had it! While on one hand you notice a naive heart, on the other hand, surely, you can discern how small their appetite really is!

The fool isn't the one who is resourceful, diligent in his work, thoughtful in his planning or who enjoys the reward of his labor. **The fool is the one who in all of his blessings refuses to enjoy the One Who is so much more than anything this world has to offer.** The fool is too easily satisfied with what is on the shelf. The fool is that one who rejects the Kingdom that is so near at hand it's in plain view in Jesus Christ. The rich man in Christ's parable was only rich in things of this world—the material, but he was spiritually bankrupt.

What are the marks of one who finds ultimate satisfaction with knowing Christ?

1. **Their treasure is found in their heart not their house.** The material cannot perpetually satisfy the cravings of the heart. Christ is the kingdom—a relationship with Him is the treasure to be sought after.
2. **They refuse to be enamored with the world.** What captivates their attention isn't the sensational, the euphoric, the material, the thrill—but it is their relationship with God that truly invokes their awe, wonder, amazement and genuine worship.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE APPLICATION:

1. **How many times do you miss out on what *God* is *saying* because you are too pre-occupied with what *you* are trying to *tell* Him?**
2. **How does the parable of the rich fool illustrate the sin that lies within the human heart?**
3. **Why didn't Christ just answer his request and arbitrate?**
4. **Why was this lesson so important for the disciples to learn?**
5. **Where is your treasure? Is it on Earth? In relationships, freedom, security, comfort, etc...? Or is it in knowing the peace that Christ offers through His forgiveness on the cross?**



BIBLE STUDY

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