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### RELATED SCRIPTURES

### STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 7.16.23

James 2:5 | Matthew 6:19-24 | 1 Timothy 6:10

### SUMMARY

On the surface, it would seem the parable of The Rich Fool takes aim against the possession of wealth or material possession. This analysis is only partially true. As with any earthly possession, wealth becomes evil if not rightly ordered after the kingdom of God. In this parable, a man approaches Jesus, asking him to settle a dispute over their familial inheritance between him and his brother. Rather than decide what is fair and not fair, Jesus perceives and speaks to the problem with the man's heart—a problem which every person is susceptible to if not for the Holy Spirit's reordering of our hearts according to God's kingdom. Jesus tells a parable of a man whose land produced in abundance and believed he had so much wealth that it afforded him the privilege to "relax, eat, drink, and be merry." Jesus calls this man a fool. What makes this man foolish? It is not his mere possession of wealth that makes him the fool, but rather the faith he places in his possessions. The rich man fails to recognize that his wealth is not self-produced; rather, it is given to him by "the land" (which is ultimately by God). The heart that understands the source of every good thing is not a heart that produces selfishness and pride as displayed by the rich man; it is an outward-facing, unselfish heart that is grateful for God's gracious gifts. Second, the rich man is foolish for placing his faith and security in that which will ultimately perish. Only Christ and his kingdom are eternal, and he calls each of us to use our *temporary* material possession to advance his *eternal* kingdom. True wisdom, which is a gift of God, acknowledges that every earthly resource fails to produce security and contentment, which only Jesus Christ grants—the Rich King who gave up his wealth for our redemption.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Luke 12:13-21.

The fatal error of the rich fool was placing his trust in his material wealth. Besides material wealth, what earthly things might we put trust in over Christ?

How can we discern whether something has too strong a grip on our contentment? How can being a part of a church community help identify and resolve something like this in a life-giving manner?

If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

### CLOSE IN PRAYER

As you pray, be sure to include today's themes in what you bring before God.