

"THE RICH FOOL"**Introduction**

1. Christ is preaching to a huge crowd
2. Someone interrupts the sermon
3. This parable is a warning against covetousness and greed

1. WHAT THIS RICH MAN SAID

- 1) The words and thoughts are in v.17-19
 - (i) his eyes saw the money rolling in
 - (ii) his heart was stirred with covetousness
 - (iii) his soul was bent on having a good time
OBSERVE: What is more common? This is how men are
- 2) What was wrong with the rich man's thought?
 - (i) he was only concerned for himself
 - (ii) no reference to the poor
 - (iii) it was a recipe for gluttonous excess
 - (iv) it was a formula for laziness
 - (v) he forgot that his life was in God's hands
- 3) **APPLICATION:**
 - (i) Do you give anything to the poor?
 - (ii) Do you pray that your life be right?
 - (iii) Would you choose all this if you could?

2. WHAT ALMIGHTY GOD SAID

- 1) God's words are given in v.20:
 - (i) "Thou fool": how terrible to be a fool!
 - (ii) "This night – soul": death very near
 - (iii) "required": he had to give account
 - (iv) "whose...those things?" Not his then!
- 2) What lessons come to us from God's words?

- (i) God sees all our thoughts and plans
APPLICATION: We must always put plans to God
 - (ii) To plan without God is madness
APPLICATION: Live with prayer on your lips
 - (iii) Death is never far off – may be very near.
ILLUSTRATION: Croesus, King of Lydia
 - (iv) Death brings us to the need to give account
OBSERVE: Judgement at death; the Last Day
 - (v) God watches how we use our money
APPLICATION: Never forget the poor and wretched
 - (vi) To live for selfish pleasure is a great sin
APPLICATION: The Rich Man and Lazarus
- 3) Let us all stop and ask ourselves:
 - (i) Am I living for myself? Am I selfish?
 - (ii) Do I realise how frail my life is?
 - (iii) Am I ready + fit to face God in judgement?

3. WHAT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST SAID

- 1) Our Lord adds His comments in v.20:
 - (i) "Treasure for himself"
 - (ii) "not rich toward God"
- 2) God created us to live so as to put God first:
 - (i) It is God who gave us our life
 - (ii) All our wealth is God's gift
 - (iii) If we leave God out of life – no blessing
 - (iv) Worldly company is a snare
 - (v) We cannot take money with us
 - (vi) "A teaspoon of pleasure; an ocean of wrath"
 - (vii) We should lay up treasure in heaven
APPLICATION: Are you rich towards God?
God looks on the heart: **Illustration:** the poor widow

PSALM**112: 1 – 6****49: 6 – 11****41: 1 – 4****CONCLUSION:**

1. Money can buy everything but happiness; a passport everywhere except to heaven
2. The only true riches is Christ
3. To get safely to heaven is our wisdom.