



The Person Who Loved His Stuff

By Shannon Ford on January 18, 2022

READING: Luke 12

The parable Jesus tells in Luke 12 is about a certain man who had a great year with his crops. In our day, we would say the yield was abundant and the prices were high. The man had such a good crop that he had nowhere to store the huge abundance. So, he decided to build bigger storage facilities and then he could retire and live off the income the crops would produce. So, he built his barns, bought a nice rocking chair, and sat out on the porch convinced that he had finally arrived at the “good life.” What he didn’t realize was that very night he was going to die. Perhaps he had a heart attack, maybe it was a stroke, maybe he had an accident . . . it does not matter. The point is this man put all his effort into storing up earthly riches, but he gave little to no thought for investing in the riches of Heaven. He had spent his life building a treasure that others would consume.

This parable is not hard to understand because Jesus gives us the point of the parable before He even tells it, *“Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions”* (Luke 12:15). This is the message Jesus wants to communicate. But also notice the very strong word Jesus used to describe this man. He is not called “unwise” but he is called a “fool” in verse 20. He is a fool because he put his hope for happiness and security in what he had. It is ironic that the very kind of person that Jesus calls a fool is the person who is often called “successful” in our society.

This parable is a warning to any who will value the things of the world above the things of God. It is a warning that we should not put our confidence, assurance, or draw our value from our net worth, awards and achievements, titles and positions, or the “stuff” we own. These things cannot bring us lasting happiness or satisfaction. Trusting these things will lead to shallow living. People who anchor their lives to the material are quickly and easily destroyed when the trials of life come their way. The true anchor is found in Jesus Christ. Our true security comes from holding on to Him with both hands. And we cannot hold on to the Lord if we are also trying to hold on to the things of the world. We must choose.

PRAYER: Lord, You have blessed us in so many ways. Help us not be guilty of laying up treasures on earth while laying up no treasures in Heaven. Remind us daily that You are the owner of everything, and we are Your managers responsible for stewarding Your blessings. Amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Luke 13

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