

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE



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“Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

God is the giver of every good and perfect gift. He provides for both our spiritual and physical needs: *“Forgive us our trespasses; Give us this day our daily bread.”* With our sights set on Him, everything will fall into place. No doubt, the world around us offers a rich harvest. The question is, *“How are we to deal with it in our lives?”*

The parable of Luke 12 has no intention to make a farmer (or any of us) feel guilty if we have been blessed with a large yield. Neither is the parable intended to give someone a bad conscience for some type of successful increase in possessions. It’s a proper Christian thing for us to thank all those involved in bringing food to our table by producing a surplus of crops beyond what the farmer needs for himself. This equally applies to other sectors of the economy, where individuals work hard to make a good living for themselves and others.

Why then is the rich man called a “fool”? Because he forgot the

most important thing, which is God. His thoughts and plans relate to himself alone. This is evident from his statement in Luke: *“I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry’” (Luke 12:19).* The rich man is the reason why his crops

When we lead with statements that begin with “I’ve done this,” or “I’ve accomplished that,” the conversation is headed in the wrong direction.

Instead, our lives are to express the relationship that as we have received from God. Those blessings now flow from us into the lives of others.

increased. Notice God’s response to him: *“This night your soul is required of you” (v. 20).*

What does this parable teach us? First, to be rich toward God is to believe that God is the giver of all things, including life and salvation. To show that one believes is to

share with others the gifts God gives. Second, the rich man planned his life apart from God. Not clothed in the Savior, he stands all alone and “naked” before the Creator. Contrast that picture with how blessed are those who have received the gift of faith and are clothed in Christ! Christ became poor, stripped naked, and put on a cross for us so that we would be rich in much more than earthly possessions. **By faith in Christ crucified and Him risen, you have the eternal riches of heaven.**

No doubt, this parable points us to Jesus. It invites us to live life in God, to see those who are without Him as “naked” and in need of a Savior. It invites us to respond back to God through our worship, tithes, and offerings that we bring – to be rich towards Him as He has first been rich towards us. And it exhorts us to live lives of sincere thanksgiving to God in prayer. As we have been taught in the Catechism, *“For all this, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.”*