**THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL**  
Luke 12:13-21

**MAIN THOUGHT** We are not to store up things for ourselves but rather be rich toward God.

**THE TWO BROTHERS** (13-15).
- Rabbi’s were expected to solve disputes. Here Jesus refused for he had been rejected as their messiah (Psa. 72:2).
- However, Jesus took the opportunity to get to the root of the problem — GREED (covetousness). It was a problem that BOTH brothers had (you is plural). When both are greedy, no settlement is possible.
- You can avoid a crisis of SELF-ESTEEM if you do not let the “abundance of possessions” define you. They are temporary but God is eternal (Job 20:21-22; 31:24-25; 28). You must be defined by God.

**THE RICH FOOL** (16-21).

**HIS DILEMMA** (16-17).
- This man had a bigger problem than he knew — too much wealth.
- Many have forgotten God (Prov. 30:7-9). Others have been ruined by it and wandered from the faith (Luke 18:25; 1 Tim. 6:9-10).
- Few follow the example of Abraham and Job who avoided the pitfalls of wealth by staying true to God (1 Tim. 6:17-19).

**HIS DECISIONS** (18).
- Notice the four “I” statements: (1) I will do; (2) I will tear down; (3) I will build; (4) I will store and three “my” statements: (1) my barns; (2) my grain; (3) my goods. He did not consider his brother. He failed to consult God and determine God’s will for his life (22:42; Rom. 12:2b).
- His decisions did not seek first the kingdom of God (31). His decisions revealed where his heart was — himself (34).

**HIS DESIRES** (19).
- His desires were for an early retirement of ease and comfort (16:19, 25).
- It is true that we need to take care of ourselves and our families (1 Tim. 5:8). It is true that we should not be wasteful (John 6:12).
- But we must guard against the GREED of Achan (Josh. 7:20-21), Ananias & Saphira (Acts 5:3-4), and Judas Iscariot (John 12:4-6).

| “That man is richest whose pleasures are cheapest.” | HENRY DAVID THOREAU (1859) |
| “A man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to let alone.” |

**HIS DEATH** (20). The tragedy is not what he left behind, but what lay before him — life without God for eternity. He failed to lay up treasures for himself in heaven that is eternal (33).

**OUR DETERMINATION** (21). Be rich toward God (2 Cor. 8:9).