**The Parable of The Rich Fool! (A Lesson on Stewardship) Luke 12**

**Introduction:**

**2 Questions To Think About…
What is your ATTITUDE towards your Personal Possessions?
What do You do with the things that God has Blessed you with?**

**I. A Brief Introduction to Parables**

1. **What is a Parable? …..It is a placing of one thing by the side of another! ….It is a comparison, a similitude, a casting alongside. ….Some call it “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning”**

**B. Why did Jesus Speak in Parables? ….To Reveal and Conceal The truths regarding the Kingdom of Heaven-Matt 13:10-13 …To Reveal Truth to those seeking the truth, seeking God! ….To Conceal Truth from those with hardened hearts, those not truly seeking God!**

**C. What are The Parables of Jesus about? What is the Overriding Theme? . ....The Kingdom of Heaven//Thde Kingdom of God//The Church!-Matt 13:10**

**D. How Should we Interpret Parables?**

**1. Consider carefully the CONTEXT of Jesus words! 2. Take advantage of Jesus’ explanation of His parables! 3. Focus on the Central Truth of the Parable, the Lesson that Jesus is Conveying!**

**II. The Context Under Which The Parable is Spoken**

1. **Jesus is Teaching the Multitudes Spiritual Truths-Luke 12:1-12**
2. **A Man in the Crowd asks Jesus to divide the inheritance between he and his brother! Luke 12:13**
3. **Jesus tells the crowd “To Beware of Covetousness for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses”! Luke 12:14-15**
4. **What is Covetousness?**
* **Covetousness = Greedy desire for more! It is a constant desire/pursuit of wealth/possessions or for another’s possessions!**
1. **Central Idea that Jesus is Teaching: Beware of Covetousness!!!**

**III. Jesus Tells The Parable of The Rich Fool!-Luke 12:16-21 (To Illustrate His Point)!**

**IV. Why Does God Call The Rich Man A Fool?**

1. **He failed to Acknowledge, Honor and Glorify God! …His Focus was on Self! Luke 12:18-19 ….He should have realized that God is the giver of all of our blessings! James 1:17 …He Should have offered God his first fruits-The first and the best of what he had Prov 3:9-10 …He proved who his Master was: His Possessions!-Matt 6:24**
2. **He failed to consider the needs of others! …Just Like Nabal in the OT (1 Sam 25:2-12). ….The Similarities Between Nabal and the Rich Man**
* **Both were blessed, and Rich in possessions!**
* **Neither mention, or honor God!**
* **Both were concerned with SELF!**
* **Both were not willing to share with others!**
* **The Name Nabal means “FOOL”!**
* **Both suffered the same fate: their lives were taken from them!! I Sam 25:36-38**

**\*\*\*\*God wants us to look out for others and share!! James 1:27, I John 3:17-18, I Tim 6:17-19**

1. **He failed to consider his true state: that he was materially rich, but spiritually poor! Psa 42:1-2, Psa 63:1-2, Matt 11:28-30**
2. **He was unaware that he must one day give an account to God!-Luke 12:20, 2 Cor 5:10**
3. **He trusted in his riches instead of the Living God! Luke 12:19 ….Jesus spoke of the folly of trusting in riches rather than The Living God! Matt 6:19-21, Matt 6:24 …We cannot take our possessions with us when we leave this world! -I Tim 6:17**

**The Central Idea that Jesus is Teaching:**

**Beware of Covetousness!!!**

**\*\*We Must Use Our Possessions to Glorify God and to Help Others who are in Need and can also enjoy the blessings God sends our way!!**