



## The Rich Fool

Read Luke 12:13–21

### Prayer

*Lord God, heavenly Father, we praise You for revealing Yourself to us in Your written Word, the Holy Scriptures, and in Your Living Word, Jesus the Messiah. We thank You for teaching us that You are the Maker and Owner of all things—that the ground on which we walk belongs to You, and that the body in which we live is on loan from You. We glorify You for freeing us from bondage to the things of this world so that we might know true, eternal freedom through faith in Jesus as our forgiving Savior and following Him as our Servant Lord. Enable us to share Your wondrous truth with those around us that they might share our faith in Your beloved Son, Whom to know is life abundant and eternal. In His name we pray. Amen.*

**1** According to Luke 12:13, a man came to Jesus with a request for help.

a. What was the man's problem?

**He and his brother were fighting over their late father's will.**

b. What course of action did he want Jesus to take?

**He wanted Jesus to involve Himself in making sure that his brother would divide the father's estate properly—according to Jewish law. He wanted Jesus to involve Himself in a family dispute!**

**2** How did Jesus respond to the man's request, 12:14,15?

**Jesus refused to get involved in the feud—and told the petitioner to focus on righteousness rather than riches!**

**3** What challenge confronted the rich man in Jesus' parable, 12:16,17?

**"His" land was so productive that he did not know where to store the abundance that it yielded.**

**4** What course of action did he decide to take, 12:18?

**He decided that he would provide himself with additional storage space; he would build more and bigger barns.**

**5** Whom did he consult in making his decision?

**Only himself!**

**6** What goal did he have in making his decision, 12:19?

**His goal was to ensure that he would never lack anything, and that he would always be in a position to enjoy a prosperous lifestyle.**



## Unit 4

**7** What two radical flaws in the man's thinking did Jesus point to?

a. 12:16

**The rich man thought he owned the land. He did not. The land belonged to God, and the abundance it yielded was God's provision.**

b. 12:20

**The rich man did not even own his so-called "own" life. God was lending it to him, and would that night require the man to return the loan to God. The man was about to die!**

**8** An early church father, Ambrose of Milan, said that the rich man had access to plenty of storage space—in the mouths of the poor and needy!

What message do Ambrose's words offer to many affluent nations and individuals in today's world?

**God has provided abundantly—but the human race has not divided responsibly or compassionately. God calls humanity to care and share. A Chinese proverb states, "When a butterfly flaps its wings in China, it affects the weather patterns around the planet." How true! There is no such thing as private Christianity; either the Christianity destroys the privacy, or the privacy destroys the Christianity. Personal faith, yes! Private faith, never!**

**9** What message does Luke 12:21 proclaim to humanity still today?

**Those seen to be the "most rich" by human eyes are all too often the "most poor" in God's eyes. After all, we humans own nothing, but are merely managers of what God has made and continues to own. We are but temporary tenants of Planet Earth, and are dwelling in and using a body and life which God is lending us.**