

## A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

### RICH TOWARD GOD

Luke 12:16-21 “And (Jesus) told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

As is true of many, the rich man in Jesus’ parable lived his life to accumulate wealth. His crops and their storage filled his life and soul. He put his trust in what he stored in his granaries. Upon completion of harvest and putting it away in newly enlarge storage facilities he said to himself, “you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” (Luke 12:20)

There is no crime in what this rich man did. It is not a sin to be rich. His wealth was accumulated through good farming practices. He was a successful farmer! He appears to be honest, a man of good standing in the community. His friends and neighbors probably thought well of him.

So, why did Jesus tell this parable? 1 Timothy 6:8-10 enlightens you as to the point of Jesus telling this parable. “If we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.” This rich man put his trust in his stored grain instead of God.

There is nothing wrong with granaries, 401 K’s, investments and savings accounts of various kinds. Well, that is true unless you put your faith and trust in them as did the rich man. The Psalmist writes, “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman

stays awake in vain. It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.” (Psalm 127:1-2)

Prayer: Lord Jesus, my Good Shepherd, lead me to the green pastures and quiet waters as the Psalmist promises. Amen

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, Whose trust, ever childlike,  
No cares could destroy: Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, Whose strong hands were skilled  
At the plane and the lathe: Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, Your hands swift to welcome,  
Your arms to embrace: Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, Whose voice is contentment,  
Whose presence is balm: Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.  
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