**PARABLES SERIES**

 **“Handling Prosperity Wisely – Don’t Be a Fool”**

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**Luke 12:13-26 (NLT)**

**Parable of the Rich Fool**

13Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father’s estate with me.” 14Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” 15Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

16Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. 17He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ 18Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. 19And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’

20“But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’ 21“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

**Teaching about Money and Possessions**

22Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. 23For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. 24Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! 25Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? 26And if worry can’t accomplish a little thing like that, what’s the use of worrying over bigger things?

This parable invites us to develop coping strategies for dealing with prosperity and avoid being called a fool by God.

We must:

**1. Curb the greed that lurks within us.**

15Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.” Luke 12:15

**2. Not succumb to the self-centeredness that wants to control us.**

18Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. 19And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!”’ Luke 12:18-19

**3. Make a priority of nurturing our relationship with God.**

“But God said to him, ‘you fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get it all? Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.”

Luke 12:20-21

**Action Step:  As we make being rich toward God a priority in our life then we can look forward to hearing God say to us: Well done, good and faithful servant!**