

- A. We may make well-made plans, yet we don't know what tomorrow holds.
- B. In today's text, Jesus is surrounded by thousands who came to hear Him teach and preach because a great many people “**were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority**” according to **Lu 4:32**.

Endeavor to be rich towards God.	I. BE ON GUARD AGAINST EVERY FORM OF GREED II. STORE UP TREASURE WHERE IT MATTERS MOST
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**I. BE ON GUARD AGAINST EVERY FORM OF GREED**

A. The immediate context for Christ's teaching here is a man in the audience who made a demand of Jesus. →**v13**

1. From **v13**, this man saw Jesus as a rabbi. He thought that Jesus should then be able serve as a judge in his family dispute.
  - a. Modern Israel has a Jewish Rabbinical Court system that handles matters like marriage.
  - b. Esau had a special birthright as the firstborn according to **Gen 25**. In **Deut 21:17**, we are told that the inheritance from a father is given to his firstborn son as “**a double portion of all that he has, for he is the beginning of his strength.**”
2. Jesus refused to help this man settle his case. → **v14**
  - a. Matthew Henry suspected that this man may have been arguing for an equal portion rather than his right to a lesser portion.<sup>1</sup> He also pointed out that Jesus refused to do the, “the judge's part, and the lawyer's... for it was not his commission.”<sup>2</sup>
  - b. When Jesus returns in His glory to sit on His glorious throne, His commission or divine calling is to serve as Judge of the living and the dead— to divide the sheep from the goats on that great day (**Mat 25:31-33**).

B. Knowing the thoughts of men, the divine Son of God would have known this disgruntled man's heart. He didn't see an oppressed younger brother. He pointed out that the problem was greed. → **v15**

1. The Greek word for “**greed**” here can also mean “the state of desiring to have more than one's due, ... *insatiableness, ... covetousness.*”<sup>3</sup>
2. Jesus warned against “**every form of greed**” (**v15**).
  - a. You are to flee greed or covetousness concerning money.
  - b. Jesus warned against that insatiableness concerning our desire to get more and more stuff. When lacking the gift of contentment, we can become obsessive collectors or hoarders. That is a “**form of greed**” we are to avoid.
3. Jesus said that neither money nor your possessions are to define who you are. In **v15**, He said that even if you have an abundance, your life does not consist of your possessions.
  - a. If someone ever asks what defines you, don't say you are defined by what you own.
  - b. If you are a Christian, you should tell others what defines you is that God loves you so much that He sent His only begotten Son to suffer and die for your sins.

<sup>1</sup> Matthew Henry's Commentary, vol v, p. 707-708

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 708

<sup>3</sup> Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). In *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed., p. 824). University of Chicago Press.

## II. STORE UP TREASURE WHERE IT MATTERS MOST →vv16-19

A. Because God is the one who give sunshine and rain to cause produce to grow, this rich man's land was **"very productive"** because of God's blessing.

1. If the man became rich because he used expert agricultural techniques, even that gift or ability was from God's hand.
2. It was God's sovereign blessing for him to even have that land to farm in the first place.

B. God blessed him with wealth yet instead of seeking God, he was obsessed with himself and his wealth.

1. He said, **"What shall I do?"** His conclusion was selfish and self-willed. In vv18-19, he said **"I will..., I will,... I will..."**
2. If you asked this rich fool what really mattered to him, he would have said, "my crops, my barns, my grain, my goods, my ease, my eating and drinking, and my merriment."
3. The way in which he had torn down his barns to rebuild larger ones shows that he was hoarding his wealth.
  - a. There is no mention of caring for anyone else in need.
  - b. He didn't give any of his time, talent, or increase to God or His kingdom.

C. This pagan man was also presumptuous. →v20-21

1. He spent all his time and effort in such a way that he didn't consider that his days upon this earth were numbered.
  - a. It is wise for us to be prepared to meet our Maker at any time. None of us know exactly when our soul will be required of us before God.
  - b. All that he had prepared for himself would go to someone else; v20 suggests he had no idea who would end up owning his great wealth.
2. The rich fool was also presumptuous to believe that the ultimate goal of life was his physical pleasure and ease.
  - a. WSC 1 says, **"Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."**
  - b. For Christians, Jesus died for them **"so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf" (2 Cor 5:15).**

D. Jesus said you are not to be like this **"man who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God" (v21).**

1. To be **"rich towards God"** you must have the Lord Jesus Christ as your treasure.
2. If you are saving up for retirement so that you can have a living when you may not be physically or mentally able to work any longer, that is lawful as long as Christ is the center of your life.
  - a. Those united to Christ by faith gain a glorious eternal inheritance upon their death.
  - b. What I especially appreciate are those who have retired from their long-term occupations to then devote themselves to laboring faithfully to serve in the church.

Review, further application, and conclusion: