

Very Good

The Rich Fool: Luke 12:13-34

1. Obtaining a portion of the inheritance was foremost on the mind of man (in verse 13).
2. Jesus denied his request because he thought the man was being greedy (verse 15). He denies some of our requests because he thinks we are being excessive.
3. The man in the parable was a fool because he "stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God" (verse 21).
4. People today make the same mistake this man made by over investing their time and energy in storing up "for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19)
5. Some of the illustrations Jesus used to show

the uselessness of worrying about material things are ravens ("they have no storehouses or barns; yet God feeds them" [verse 24]) and lilies ("grow (yet) they do not labor or spin" [verse 27]).

6. An example from recent events that shows how

"where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"

(verse 34) is treasuring my education more than

my relationship with God therefore allowing worldly

philosophy to dominate my focus on things that

are eternal. *Amen*

7. This parable help me put my priorities in order

much like Matthew 6:33. For, verse 31 (of

Luke chapter 12) states "But seek first the kingdom,

and these things will be given to you as well."

A Follower of Christ: Philippians 4:10-19

1. Paul reached to the lack of many with

contentment (verse 11).

2. Paul obtained the strength to face adverse

circumstances from God (verse 13).

3. One might think it is easier to handle prosperity

rather than handle humble circumstances but

Matthew 19:23 warns us "it is hard for a rich man

to enter the kingdom of heaven."

4. Matthew 6:33 suggests a direct correlation

between having your priorities straight and

material changes in your life. It reads "But

seek first his kingdom and his righteousness

and all these things will be given to you

as well."

5. God promises to supply our needs, but not

necessarily our desires likely because he wants

us desire him with all our heart. **AMEN**

6. The world's view is to build your foundation based

On wealth while 1 Timothy 6:17 commands that we are not "to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God."

7. In 1 Timothy 6:17-19 Paul warned the rich "not to be arrogant" (verse 17).

8. In verse 18, he exhorts them "to ^{do} good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share" in order to "take hold of the life that is truly life" (verse 19).

9. My obedience to 1 Timothy 6:17-19 will make me rich in family relationships, church member relationships and relationships with neighbors.

Christ Himself:

1. 2 Corinthians 8:9 means to me that Christ lived lowly so that we may be lifted up.

2. When we give toward his work, we should

be "a cheerful giver" (verse 7).

3. You can be cheerful even though you may give sacrificially to God's work because God gives you "an expected end" (Jeremiah 29:11 [KJV]).
- When you have done this, the result is that "you will abound in every good work" (verse 8).

Very Good Job

What is A Witness?

1. A witness in a courtroom testifies to substantiate the claim of another person. Witnessing in a courtroom is like sharing our faith because we are substantiating the claim of the good news in the word of God.

2. In Psalm 107:2, we are admonished to speak of God's redemption power. This is often hard to do, because we let our pride *Amen* get in the way of our testimony.

3. I have followed this admonishment recently by sharing parts of my testimony while leading chapel services at Central Union Mission.

The Motivation for Witnessing

1. In Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commands us to 'Go' and preach and teach the word of God.

2. Paul's ministry of witnessing was very important

to him because he states 'my life worth (it)

nothing to me; if only I may finish the race and

complete... the task of testifying to the gospel of

God's grace" (verse 21). The reason ^{why} it was important

to him is because he describes it as 'the task

the Lord Jesus has given me'.

3. Christ's love compels Paul to witness (verse 14).

Since Jesus 'died for all' we should an attitude

such that the lives we live 'should no longer'

be for ourselves (verse 15). This change

our lives from serving the sinful nature to serving God.

4. Jesus Christ says 'if anyone is ashamed of me

and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of

him' (verse 26). This should make your

witness unabashed.

5. If you are faithful to follow Jesus, ~~obedient~~

He promises to 'make you fishers of men' (verse 19).

He has helped me do this by building my

knowledge of the word up, building my prayer

life up, and putting me in positions at Central

Urban Mission to witness to others.

The Message

1. The duties of Christ's ambassadors are

to live a life that is Christlike and witness

about your faith in Christ.

2. In Luke 19:10, Jesus says He came into this

world 'to seek and save what was lost' (verse 10);

and in Mark 10:45, it states Jesus came into

this world 'to serve, and to give his life as

a ransom for many' (verse 45).

3. As a representative of Christ, my message

to those who do not know Him personally would be that God is a good God. He sent himself down in the body of man as a sacrifice for the errors of our ways, and to keep us connected to Him, who loves us and died for us.

4. Paul expressed the message with urgency and priority that we realized the Christ died, was buried, and rose again as the important message of the Scriptures.

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Example of Jesus

1. Jesus used the everyday experience of getting a drink of water (at a well) as an opportunity for witnessing.
2. The advantage of beginning a conversation on the level of a person's immediate interest is having a topic that the person can relate to. An occasion in which I used a person's special interest to share Christ with him was when I saw a Central Union Mission overnight guest waiting at a bus stop, waiting for Sunday Service to start and I invited him to Sunday School. He accepted the offer. Amen
3. Some of my natural opportunities to witness come when I conduct intake at Central Union Mission.

4. I suppose Jesus sent all twelve of his

disciples to buy provisions in order to witness

as well as buy provisions.

→ He wanted to
Be ALONE

5. Jesus spoke before the women of Samaria.

When considering how to witness, Jesus sets

the example that you must imitate the

conversation.

6. Jesus repeatedly reminded the women

of the living water when the women tried

to divert His attention from her sin

and her need.

Response of the Samaritan Woman

1. The woman first responded to Jesus' approach

with confusion and resistance. In verse 15,

her attitude changed because she stop resisting

and requested 'Give me this water'. It is possible

that Jesus' persistence brought this about.

2. Jesus demonstrated his divine powers by

stating the number of husbands she had (5)

without asking her.

3. In verse 24, Jesus describes God as a spirit.

This statement is important because his worshipers

must worship in spirit and in truth.

4. The women was looking for the Messiah

because he will explain everything (verse 25).

5. Jesus claimed about himself that

he was the Messiah by saying "I who

speak to you am he"

Effectiveness of Jesus' Witness

1. The approach Jesus used in witnessing to this

woman of Samaria was effective. He met

at her at the place she was and used something

in common as a topic to witness.

2. The result of his witness was that she
(went back to the town and said to the people,
"Come, see a man who told me everything
I ever did. Could this be the Christ?")

(verses 28-29).

3. The people to whom she witnessed
responded by '(coming) out of the town
and (making) their way toward him'.
'And because of his words many more
became believers' (verse 30, 41).

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Money - The Old Testament Standard

1. God commanded those under the law of Moses

to provide "a tithing of everything... every tenth"

(Leviticus 27:30-32) and to "bring the whole

tithing into the storehouse" (Malachi 3:10).

2. I would say the 'store house' is "the place

the Lord your will choose... to put his Name

there for his dwelling" (Deuteronomy 12:15) or

simply the Church.

3. A tithing is "a tenth of everything" (Genesis 14:20)

Money - The New Testament Standard

1. The standard for stewardship of our possessions

is the same under the law of **MOSES** and

under Christ. Matthew 5:17 reads "Do not

think that I have come to abolish the Law or

the Prophets; I have ~~not~~ come to abolish.

them but to fulfill them. Our motivation for stewardship ought to be higher than those under the law of Moses because our stewardship of resources should reflect our thanks for the grace Christ has brought us.

2. Jesus regarded a person's responsibility in the area of stewardship of resources as important but he states "teachers of the law and Pharisees" (Matthew 23:23) should have practiced "justice, mercy and faithful" "without neglecting" giving "a tenth" (Matthew 23:23).

3. The attitude of the Macedonians was "overflowing joy" (2 Corinthians 8:2) - gave their money to God.

In light of this, I think God is interested in how we give and not what we give. Giving money is an important part of our Christian life because

we want to be Christ-like as Christians and
Christ "became poor so that you through his poverty
might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). The

one who sows sparingly reaps sparingly refers

to the blessings apportioned to you as a result of you

giving. The attitude that God wants you to have

in giving one of a "cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

It may be hard for you to give cheerfully

if you ~~are~~ are not fully familiar with the word

of God and all its promises for those who fulfill

its commands.

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Recognize That God is Worthy of Your Trust

1. We can trust God completely because his words are "flawless." (Psalm 12:6)
2. If you make God's promises the foundation of your financial security "he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5,6).
3. The financial areas that hardest for me to put God's hands are financial debts because of the size of the debts. But I must "lean not" on my own "understanding" (Proverbs 3:5).

Realize That God Wants You to Live a Full and Abundant Life

1. John 10:10 applies to financial freedom because it states "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).

2. Abundant life does not necessarily mean

having all the money or possessions you want

instead abundant life means "free from

the cares and stresses brought by confidence

in money and other material possessions"

(Bright, p. 328).

3. I feel I do have abundant life right

now because I have Christ in my life.

Substitute Faith for Fear

1. Fear interferes with our trust in God because

fear allows concern and worry about our

circumstances to block ^{the} potential power of God

had we put our trust in him.

2. 2 Timothy 1:7 puts in contrast the

spirit of timidity with the spirit of power.

The spirit of timidity operates from a foundation

of weakness while the spirit of power operates from a foundation of strength.

3. The financial areas that make me fearful are debts to a previous landlord. I am in prayer to God that this debt not be a hindrance to residential independence.

Ask God to Supply Your Needs

1. The difference between needs and wants is that needs are necessities (food, clothing, shelter) while wants are desires (material possessions).

2. We lack things either because we did not ask or "when you ask, ... you ask with the wrong motives" (James 4:3).

3. I ask God regularly to supply my needs of food, clothing, shelter and a right mind. Because I remain in expectation, my needs have been fulfilled.

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Jesus' Claims Concerning Who He Is

1. Christ claimed to be linked to God.

In Mark 16: 61-2, Jesus states you see him

"at the right hand of the Mighty One. In

John 6: 38, Jesus said he came down from heaven

"to do the will of him who sent me." In John 8: 42,

Jesus states "I come from God." In John 5: 17-18,

it states "he (Jesus) was even calling God his

own Father, making himself equal with God."

Finally, In John 10: 30, Jesus claimed, "I and

the Father are one." Furthermore, those who

heard what Jesus said thought they could have

access to the Father (God). But Jesus states,

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father"

(John 14: 9).

2. Jesus claims to have authority. In John 5: 22,

"the Father... has entrusted all judgment to the Son"

Matthew 9:6 states "the Son of Man has authority

on earth to forgive sins." John 6:45-47 states

"Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from

him comes to me (Jesus)."

3. Jesus predicts his resurrection. Mark

9:31 states "after three days he will rise."

Luke 18:33 states "on the third day he will

rise again." In John 14:3, he states, "I will

come back."

4. The characteristics of an omnipotent (all

powerful) God are all knowing, all powerful,

and even control over life and death. John 2:24

states "he knew all men." Matthew 8:26

states he "rebuked the winds and the waves."

John 11:43-44 states "Jesus called in a loud voice,

"Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out."

The Importance of the Truth About His Identity

1. If we suppose Jesus Christ were not God, and if He knew He was not God and that none of the claims (of his authority, his resurrection, and his omnipotence) were true, we might conclude that he made himself out to be idolat. But we know through knowledge and experience that this is not so.

2. If we suppose Jesus were sincerely wrong, and suppose He sincerely believed all these claims, even they supposedly were not true, we might make him out to be a liar. But we know that "All Scripture is God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16) and He is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

3. It is important to investigate His claim,

so that we can "study to show thyselves approved

unto God, a workman that needeth not to be

ashamed, rightly dividing the word" (2 Timothy 2:15).

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James Curtis
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The Entrance of Jesus Christ Into the World

1. Based on ~~his~~ statement in John 17:5,

✓ Jesus Christ was with ~~God~~ before he came into the world. He states "Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."

2. ✓ The circumstances that surrounded

Jesus' ^{was} birth that Mary was

engaged to be married to Joseph,

but was pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

Joseph was going to divorce her quietly

but the Holy Spirit (the Lord) appeared

to Joseph in a dream and told him

the circumstances of her pregnancy and

that he should not be afraid to take

Mary home as his wife.

The Character of Jesus

1. The character of Jesus is compassionate yet orderly. He shows his compassion when he is willing to heal a man with leprosy (Mark 1:40-42), when he asks for forgiveness of those who crucify him (Luke 23:33-34), when he washed the feet of those who followed him - his disciples (John 13:1-17), and when he died for sinners so that they can be reconciled with God (Romans 5:8-10).

But he was orderly when he "drove all from the temple" because they turned "my (his) father's house into a market" (John 2:13-17).

2. Jesus was more compassionate than his contemporaries (his disciples). His

disciples want to send people away ^{some of} whom

needed to be healed of sickness, in order to

be fed while Jesus decided to keep them in

his company and fed at least 5,000 with

"only five loaves of bread and two fish"

(Matthew 14: 15-21). His disciples also wanted

to rebuke those who brought children to touch

Jesus while Jesus said "let the little children

come to me" and "he took the children in his

arms ... and blessed them" (Mark 10: 13-16).

Furthermore, his disciples James and John

wanted "to call fire down from heaven to

destroy" people in a Samaritan village because

they did not welcome Jesus but Jesus decided

to go to another village. (Luke 9: 51-56).

3. People love Christ for numerous reasons.

He raised the son of a widow from Nain from the dead (Luke 7:11-15). He forgave the sins of a sinful woman (Luke 7:36-50).

He raised from the dead, Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary (John 11:30-44).

Mostly, these are examples of persons who loved Jesus for his works.

4. Jesus understands our feelings so completely because he "has been tempted in every way, just as we are" (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus first demonstrates his depth of knowledge and commitment at the age of 12. "Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding" (Luke 2:42-47).

5. Another reaction the people may have had to his teachings is fear. Jesus spoke with

boldness and "as one who had authority". (Matt. 7:28-29)

If I lived in Jesus' day, listened to him teach and observed his behavior I would attempt to react with immediate obedience, particularly to the statement "everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matthew 7:24).

6. I feel Jesus is "the way, the truth, and the life". (John 14:6). I felt this way through the wisdom He has provided me. Wisdom is both knowledge and experience. He has provided me knowledge through his recorded teachings in the Bible. For instance, He tells a story about love when he talks about "Two men who owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five

hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon replied, "I supposed the one who had the bigger debt canceled." "You have judged correctly," Jesus answered." (Luke 7: 41-43). He also provides

me experience of His teachings by the grace

He has shown me for both the financial

debts and sin debts that I accumulated.

To God be the glory.

Amen

The Need for the Death of Jesus Christ

1. Paul uses terms like all and none

(no one, not even one) eight (8) times

in Romans 3:10-12 and Romans 3:23. I think

he repeats these terms to re-enforce his

point that everyone meets the criteria of

the statement he making about unrighteousness.

This tells me that moral, respectable

people have short falls.

2. The result of sin is death (Romans 6:23).

The Result of the Death of Christ

1. Christ was so good that he had "no sin"

(2 Corinthians 5:21). When Christ died on

the cross to pay the penalty for our sins,

he became "sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The result is that I "might become the

righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

2. Christ taught that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again" (Mark 8:31).

3. Hebrews 12:2 states that was joyful about such a death: ["who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2)].

4. The effect of Christ's death is eternal justice for our sins.

5. Christ died for our sins "to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

6. Christ's death reconciled our relationship with God (Colossian 1:21-22, Romans 5:10-11),

Significance of the Death of Christ

1. The only thing we can do to make sure that the death of Christ applies to us (so we can be saved) is believe (Acts 16:31).
2. We cannot work for salvation. Salvation comes "by grace... through faith" (Ephesian 2:8-9).

Exceller

The Results of the Resurrection

1. The resurrection tells us that Jesus Christ was the "Son of God" (Romans 1:4). The resurrection also tells us that God has "incomparably great power for us" (Ephesians 1:19-20). Additionally, the resurrection tells us that our bodies will be transformed "so that they will be like his glorious body" (Philippians 3:21).

2. If Christ had not risen from the dead, "our preaching is useless and so is your faith... We are then found to be false witnesses about God... your faith is futile; (because) you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:14-17).

3. Since we believe the resurrection, it is logical to believe all the miracles Jesus performed because the same power God used to raise Jesus from the dead is the same power Jesus used to perform miracles.

The Visible Return of Christ

1. Christ will return to earth "coming on the clouds of the sky" (Matthew 24:30).
2. The first time Christ came to earth, he came through Mary, who "was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:18).
3. When Christ comes for the Christian he "will be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:52).
4. When Christ returns the condition of the earth will be chaos; "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places" (Matthew 24:7).
5. To those who are not Christians when Christ returns, "they will be punished with everlasting destruction" (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

6. Our present hope is Jesus Christ:

"He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and...

for the sins of the whole world" (1 John 2:2).

Excellent

The Need for Jesus Christ to Live in the Christian

1. ✓ Jesus was unwilling to entrust "himself" to men because "he knew all men" and "he knew what was in a man" (John 2:24-25).

2. ✓ The kinds of things that are evil in our hearts are "evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slandar, arrogance, and willly" (Mark 7:21-22).

3. ✓ The apostle Paul described his human nature as "sinful" (Romans 7:18).

4. ✓ Apart from Jesus Christ "you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

The Fact that Jesus Christ Lives in the Christian

1. ✓ In my own words, Revelations 3:20 states that Jesus is available to us if we "tune-in"

!!! God Promises!!!

to him and if we receive him, we can have fellowship with him.

2. In Revelations 3:20, Jesus guarantees that "if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20).

3. You know that Jesus Christ entered your life through wisdom - knowledge and experience of him. Furthermore, when you give yourself over to the Christian way of life you know Christ has entered your life: for, Galatians 2:20 stated "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

4. We know that Jesus Christ will never leave you even when you sin is so through wisdom:

→ God Promised!!

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8) and "God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5).

5. If we do sin, we can renew our fellowship with him through confession: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Jesus Christ at Home Within the Christian

1. When Jesus Christ lives within us and we face the problem of emptiness, Jesus states he will fill us up: "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never

be thirsty" (John 6:35).

2. When Jesus Christ lives within us and we face the problem of anxiety, Jesus states that he will provide you peace: "Peace I leave with you... Do not let your hearts be troubled" (John 14:27).

3. When Jesus lives within us and we face the problem of unhappiness, Jesus states that he provides us joy: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you" (John 15:11).

4. When Jesus Christ lives within us and we face the problem of lack of power, Jesus ~~strength~~ will provide us strength: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Phillips 4:13).