

# The parable of the rich man

(Luke 12:13-21)

Characters:

Narrator (Nar)

Man

Jesus

Rich Man (RM)

Poor Man (PM)

God

Nar: A man came to Jesus and said:

Man: Hey Jesus! I need you to sort something out! My brother won't divide the inheritance fairly. In fact he has given me nothing while he sits on a pile of money that he doesn't need. Tell him to give me my share!

Nar: Jesus looked at the man and said:

Jesus: Who appointed me as the judge in this case?

Man: but I thought if you said something he would listen. I mean, most people listen to you! And this is just not fair, not fair at all!!

Jesus: Well, do you really need the money?

Man: Need it!? Need it!? Of course I need it! Who doesn't need money?!

Nar: Jesus looked at the man and at the crowd around him, then he said:

Jesus: Greed is a terrible thing. Watch out that you are not being greedy. There are far more important things in life than possessions or wealth. Here, listen to this story. One year the fields of a rich man produced a bumper crop. He had wheat, maize, corn, beans, vegetables, grapes and more. In fact he had far more than he could ever need.

RM: This is wonderful! I have food for years to come so I can stop working, sit back and enjoy the fruits of my labours. You know, if I keep all this food for myself I never need work again!

Jesus: When they heard of the great harvest, poor people came to the rich man to ask for just a little food to eat.

PM: Just a little, that's all I need, for my wife and children. We've got no food at all and you have more than you need. If we don't eat we will die.

Jesus: But the rich man said:

RM: Err .... No! All this food is mine. I worked hard to grow it and I will keep it.

Jesus: And he gave orders to his workers:

RM: Tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Bring every scrap of my harvest in and don't let anyone else take even a grain. It's mine! All mine!!

Jesus: The rich man sat at home.

RM: Now I have all I need. I never need to work again. I can eat and drink and be merry for the rest of my life! Curses on those poor people who want to take what is mine!

Jesus: But just as he said this, a strange feeling came over him. A voice seemed to echo in his head:

God: You fool, this very night your life will end, then who will have all the riches you have stored up for yourself?

Nar: The crowd were silent. No one dare say a word. Jesus looked at them.

Jesus: And this is how it will be for anyone who stores up riches for themselves on earth but is not rich towards God.

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