

A RICH ANSWER TO A POOR QUESTION

Luke 12:13-21

Introduction:

1. This is a modern parable with today's mindset of secular humanism.
2. In our text passage, we find the rich man mentioned 6 I's, 5 my's and 4 I will's signifying that his desires were his top priority.
3. The answer of Jesus to questions are always appropriate to the inquirer and to the crowd that is present.
4. Jesus has just been discussing the deepest, holiest matters and a materialistic-minded man breaks into the conversation.

I. (v. 13) THE PUSHY QUESTION.

1. Scribes were usually consulted before Jesus was openly challenged.
2. Jesus is trying not to be drawn into a family conflict.
3. He doesn't ask Jesus to investigate, but rather to tell his brother what he should do.

II. (vv. 14-15) THE PROPHETIC ANSWER.

1. (v. 14) Jesus then asked, "Who made Me a divider?"
2. This was a sphere that fell outside Jesus's earthly calling.
3. Jesus refused to be dragged into family problems.
4. (v. 15) He warned against covetousness.
 - A. Success in life is not in material blessings.
 - B. The one who dies with the most toys doesn't win on that merit.

III. (v. 16) THE PRODUCT OF BLESSINGS.

1. Jesus began by telling the parable of the rich, young fool.
2. He told of great material blessings.
3. God has really blessed some here in their jobs and crops.
4. The Laodicean church was rich, but yet poor.

IV. (vv. 17-18) THE PROBLEM OF BLESSINGS.

1. The rich man was so blessed he had no storage for his increase.
2. Some folks literally die worrying over riches.
3. (v. 18) HE decided what HE was going to do.
 - A. Even if one is a Christian, riches can hinder.
 - B. Mark 10:25 – ***It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.***
 - C. This rich man had an "I" and "my" problem.

V. (v. 19) THE PRIDE OF BLESSINGS.

1. He forgot about the fountain of blessings.
2. He forgot about the instability of blessings.
3. He forgot that his life shouldn't revolve around his material blessings.
4. He forgot to even think of God and Eternity.

Conclusion:

1. Jesus said his plight is that of a fool.
2. (v. 20) This night your soul shall be required of you.
 - A. When his time for departure came, he couldn't take his full barns with him.
 - B. He left the world as empty-handed as he came, with someone else to step in and say, "My crops, My barns, My goods & riches."
3. (v. 21) He left in spiritual poverty to meet God.
4. Mark 8:36-37 – ***For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?***