



## WEEKLY STUDY

### Rich Towards God

This week we studied Luke 12.13-21. Jacob shared about our mission in Peru that was seeded by last year's Christmas Eve offering. So many lives are already being changed that it makes us feel many things. Humbled? Honored? Richly blessed? Yes to all of that. Study and pray this week about the ways you can live richly towards God.

Peace of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below.. If you would like to get connected visit [prov.church/smallgroups](http://prov.church/smallgroups).

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### DAILY STUDY

#### MONDAY: LUKE 12.13-21 (ESV)

*Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."<sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?"<sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."<sup>16</sup> And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully,<sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?'<sup>18</sup> And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.'<sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."<sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'<sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."*

- We all have areas of need and areas of surplus in our lives. How do you respond to the areas in which you lack? How do you view the surplus? What does it look like to live a life that is rich towards God?

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- **Prayer Prompt: As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.<sup>18</sup> They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,<sup>19</sup> thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. (1 Timothy 6.17-19)**
  - *Jesus, I see the areas where I am tempted to store up your blessings. Help me to share those blessings. Help me to live richly towards you! Amen.*

## **TUESDAY: LUKE 12.13-21 (ESV)**

- A preoccupation with possessions. Jacob defined preoccupation this way: an idea or subject that someone thinks about most of the time. Possessions aren't bad. Storing possessions isn't bad. What's bad? Not being rich towards God. How do you prioritize the things you serve as a caretaker for? People? Position? Property?
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- **Prayer Prompt: And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."<sup>38</sup> This is the great and first commandment. (Matthew 22.37-38)**
- *God I want to put you first. All of my heart, soul and mind are meant for your glory. Help me to keep my eyes on this commandment. Amen.*

## **WEDNESDAY: LUKE 12.13-21 (ESV)**

- A preoccupation with plans. Jacob talked about plans like this: Plans aren't bad. Making and working plans isn't bad. What's bad? Holding so tight to your plan you can't see God's plan. Think of a time when your plan failed but something better ended up happening. Write about it here. Was God's plan even better than yours?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. (Proverbs 19.21)**
- *God, you have made me with a mind to think and solve problems. I want even those gifts to bring you glory. So today I offer up my plans to you before I put them into action. Amen.*

**THURSDAY: LUKE 12.13-21 (ESV)**

- A preoccupation with pleasure. Jacob said this about pleasure: *Pleasure isn't bad. Seeking after pleasure isn't bad. What's bad? Making pleasure your aim.* There is no doubt that it feels good to feel good! God wants good for us. But our pleasure is not God's ultimate desire for us. God's desire for us is that we would participate in the plan of redemption for the whole world.

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- **Prayer Prompt: One who wanders from the way of good sense will rest in the assembly of the dead. <sup>17</sup>Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich. (Proverbs 21.16-17)**
- *God, thank you for the good things in my life. I delight in them, but I delight in you more. Amen.*

**FRIDAY: LUKE 12.13-21 (ESV)**

- Proverbs 11.28 says, Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf. We have to consider where we put our trust. It's not a sin to have possessions, but if we place our trust in them, we are in trouble. In fact, our possessions are not really ours. They belong to God. Trust God with the possessions that God has given you. What are things (people, places, status, tools or toys) that you consider to be your most highly prized possessions? Does anything change in the way you approach these things if you first dedicate them to God?

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- **Prayer Prompt: those who trust in their wealth and boast of the abundance of their riches?**  
<sup>7</sup> Truly no man can ransom another,  
or give to God the price of his life,  
<sup>8</sup> for the ransom of their life is costly

**and can never suffice,  
9 that he should live on forever  
and never see the pit. (Psalm 49.6-9)**

- *Jesus, it is humbling to consider that you have valued my life over yours. Your sacrifice for me helps me to place myself and my possessions as having worth only because of you. Amen.*

## **SATURDAY: LUKE 12.13-21 (ESV)**

- In the parable, when the rich young ruler is called a fool, it is not a light insult like we might use today. It was used to refer to someone who rejects God's path that leads to life. How we respond to treasure and its storage is less important than how we respond to God's demand that we live ultimately for Him. Can you relate to the plight of a man that is too concerned with how to store all he has? Reflect on your own "storage containers", are there changes that God might be asking you to make?

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- **Prayer Prompt: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6.19-20)**
- *God, would you run an inventory on my storehouse? Reveal to me where I'm less than focused on trusting in you. Amen.*

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Of the three "preoccupations" (Possessions, Plans, Pleasure), which one do you find preoccupying your mind the most? Which is the biggest distraction to you fully trusting God?
- The Biblical definition of a fool is one who lives as if there is no God (Psalm 14.1). What are the areas of your life where you find yourself trying to control or handle everything on your own? What would it look like to entrust those things to God?
- Jesus seems to say that there is nothing wrong with having treasure, but we must be rich towards God. What do you think "rich towards God" means? What does being rich toward God look like practically for you?