

# Rossville Church of Christ Doorpost Devo



June 4, 2023



## Encouragement from God's Word

### **Luke 12:16-21 Disciples Lay Up Heavenly Treasure**

Allegiance to Jesus dramatically alters our perspective of what is valuable. One of the great tragedies of our society is our intense fixation on accumulating and acquiring what is fleeting and temporary. From Jesus' point of view, such a way of living is the height of foolishness.

## Scripture Plan: Read

Mon, Tues, Wed.:

Luke 12:13-21 Each Night

Thurs., Fri., Sat.:

Luke 12:22-34 Each Night

## Devo Plan

1. Mon.--Read and Pray Together
2. Tues.--Read, Pray, Ask Questions, and Discuss
3. Wed.--Read, Pray, and Think about how to Apply
4. Thurs.-Sat.--Repeat steps 1-3 with New Passage
5. Sunday--Pray and Reflect on What was Learned in Worship and Class

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## Discussion Questions

Luke 12:13-21

Discussion Question #1: What prompted Jesus to tell this story? Why did he tell this parable to address this specific situation?

Discussion #2: Why is the rich man deemed foolish? How should have he responded to his success differently?

Discussion #3: What is the main point Jesus is making in this parable? How does this apply to our lives?

Luke 12:22-34

Discussion #1: How does this section connect to the previous story in Luke 12? What do we learn here about having an eternal perspective?

Discussion #2: What reasons does Jesus give to not be anxious? How can this help us when we are worrying?

Discussion #3: What does it mean to provide moneybags for yourselves that do not grow old? What does it mean that it is the Father's good pleasure to give us the kingdom? What does this mean for our lives?

## Apply and Obey

To obey what God says, this upcoming week I will...

I will share what I learned with...

## Prayer Points

- Lord, Thank You--for being a Father who loves us and wants to give us what is eternally valuable
- Lord, We Praise You--for being greater and more worthy than anything else
- Lord, Help Us--to value and treasure what you value and treasure. Help us to live our lives laying up treasure in heaven.

He illustrates this in his parable of the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21:

“And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ 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. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

In the story, the man who sought to establish greater wealth and security for himself was shown to be eternally shortsighted. His fault was not his productivity. His fault was not his success in farming. His fault was with what he valued. His strategy for building bigger barns and his purpose in doing so revealed what he truly valued in his heart. God was not his treasure. Loving those made in God’s image was not important to him. His aim was to set himself up for eating, drinking, and relaxation with no thought to God and eternity. In his plans and his scheming, he neglected his own mortality. He forgot who he was and what was truly valuable. He did not see his life, work, and possessions through the eyes of the eternal God. This man was not rich toward God because the way he oriented his life revealed that he made his life about his stuff and not about God. He tragically learned that this is a foolish way to live indeed.

To choose what is temporary and passing away over what is forever beautiful and valuable is a horrible mistake. Yet, this way of living is the norm for our culture that pursues material things, pleasure, and security above all else. American life for many is oriented around a vision of the good life that includes setting up a life of maximum pleasure for about 10 to 15 years in retirement with no thought to eternity. So many give no thought to God and no thought to souls when they make their plans for their money, their time, and their resources. And the sad reality is that all our earthly plans will come to nothing. All our stuff will rot in the relentless march of time. Jesus teaches his disciples this very principle in Matthew 6:19-21:

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.”

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Jesus says it plainly for his followers. Our hearts follow our treasure. Our hearts move toward what we value and what we are working toward in life. What a sad thing for our heart to be set on things that will be destroyed by rust and time and decay. What a great blessing to be able to live for something eternally valuable, namely the glory of God and the eternal joy of others in God. We can live for what is eternally valuable. We can work for a purpose that will last forever.

Disciples of Jesus must carefully reflect on whether or not we are truly laying up treasures in heaven. Does the way we are budgeting our resources clearly reflect a belief in an eternal God? Does our plan for retirement point to a belief in eternity? Are we using our time, energy, and resources now in a way that demonstrates the greatness of God? Are we pursuing plans and ambitions that reflect a heart aligned with God's heart? From a worldly perspective, Jesus lived the life of a fool. He had great potential to use his many gifts and abilities for profit, for comfort, and for popularity, yet he chose to spend his time with the poor, the weak, and the sinful. He could have lived a nice long life and died a painless death at a ripe old age, but he gave of his life and allowed himself to be killed, tortured, and humiliated. He could have set up a powerful kingdom with large palaces and great armies, but he spent his life relentlessly pursuing the lost and broken and pointing them to God and eternity. He could have lived a quiet, peaceful life free of trouble and commotion, but he spoke the truth even when it put his life in jeopardy.

From an earthly point of view, Jesus fumbled many opportunities for pleasure, fame, comfort, and success. But Jesus was no fool. His life was not a waste. He showed us the true abundant life is one that is committed to truth, to the glory of God, to self-giving love and sacrifice, no matter the consequences. Jesus lived this way because he saw the joy set before him, and because he did, he won eternal joy for himself and for all who trust in him. As disciples, there is no greater treasure than the offer of life with Jesus himself for eternity. Let us follow him into life and lay down our temporary treasures for the greater worth of the abundant life with God.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the *doorposts* of your house and on your gates." --Deuteronomy 6:4-9