

THE BIG GIVE -- LESSON 2 – HOW TO BE RICH TOWARD GOD

Luke 12:16-21-- Jesus told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, ‘You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’”

²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

Have you ever felt like you needed to purchase a gift for someone who was “rich” and already had everything he needed? What did you do?

Who is richer than God? How can we possibly be “rich toward God”? How can we give meaningful gifts to God?

Compare Luke 12:33 – “Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, *a treasure in heaven* that will not be exhausted...”

How do we lay up treasure in heaven? Is this the same as being “rich toward God”?

The preacher on Sunday suggested that we can give to God by giving Him what he “wants” – since God has no needs. What is it that God “wants” more than anything?

How can we give to persons and projects that God cares about and loves – as a way of giving to God vicariously?

How much money does it take for you to consider a person “rich”?

****How should rich people use their riches? If you were truly rich how would you spend your money?**

In today’s lesson Jesus told a parable about a rich farmer, who had the opportunity to get even richer and built bigger and bigger barns (storehouses/bank accounts) to store his stuff. Take a few minutes to look around your house, attic, basement, garage and storage units. How much stuff do you have stored up? Could Jesus fairly charge us with being very much like the rich farmer?

Look again at the question above that is marked with ** -- The truth is that most of us are rich by historical standards. We have more disposable income and stuff than most of the rest of the world. I suspect Jesus would tell us that we actually are “quite rich.” Are we spending our wealth in the same way that we would want a rich person to use his/her riches?

Ponder: How can we use the “stuff” that we are storing up to be “rich toward God,” to bless those who are truly poor, and to start transferring more of our treasures to heaven?