

# 30 June 24 Sermon - Luke 12.13-34 - "Beyond the Barn" Handout

## Outline

### Introduction

- The series so far - sermons and Watford Word
  - Rich man and Lazarus, Luke 16
  - Tithing - why? OT practice and purpose.
  - Tithing - relevant for Christians?
  - Christians and the poor
  - Paying for church workers
  - Stewardship and sacrifice
- Why this topic matters
  - Election arguments about money
  - Cost of living
  - Ukraine; Israel/Gaza
- Today - warnings and promises from Jesus

## 1. The Parable - BEYOND THE BARN, Luke 12.13-21

Discussion in small groups. Pick one question and discuss it:

- Why does Jesus tell the parable? Sees a heart of greed. Knows how destructive that is. You do not need to be materially wealthy to have this problem. It does not say the man was rich, just that he had an inheritance.
- What is the rich man's main problem? Greed. Not being rich towards God.
- What did the rich man forget? All his abundance was from God; It was not his permanently; He did not know when his end would be.
- What does it look like to *not* be rich towards God?
- What does it look like to *be* rich towards God?
- What hidden promise exists in this teaching? 'life' is available, but not via possessions.
- What is Jesus' key warning?
  - Storing up treasure for ourselves is a foolish thing

- Storing up treasure in heaven is a wise thing - the following section
  - "Therefore..."
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## 2. The 'Therefore', Luke 12.22-34

- What does Jesus acknowledge lies at the heart of much of our acquisitiveness?
  - Worry and fear - vv22, 25, 26, 29, 32
  - Lack of faith - v28
- What is the solution?
  - Faith - v28
  - Know God and his heart - feeds birds, v24; clothes flowers, v28; he cares - v24, 28, 30, 31
  - Trust God
  - Understand what life is about, what it is for - v23
  - Might need to repent! The rich man did not (Luke 18), rich Zacchaeus did (Luke 19). One joyful, generous, hospitable, saved - one sad, lonely, lost.
- What is the conclusion of the matter? vv32-34
  - Decide to trust instead of fear
  - Value and be grateful for the kingdom
  - Act generously towards others you can help
  - Invest in things that have eternal repercussions
  - Guide your heart towards healthy priorities for your resources by putting those resources at God's disposal

## Conclusion-Summary

- Jesus is not teaching against preparing for the future, but selfish preparation, v20
- Jesus is not saying growing wealth is wrong, but that wealth is no sign you are really 'living'.
- Greed is a problem for the poor as well as the rich.
  - Greed is a problem for the religious as well as the pagans - he is talking to 'religious' people here.
- Jesus is calling us to know God's heart - he will provide
- Jesus is calling us to a better life - one not trapped by materialistic worry
- Jesus is calling us to trust instead of worry

- Jesus is calling us to live kingdom lives (more than evangelism, but bringing God's love to life in the way we live - beatitudinous lives!)
- Are you content with your situation in life?
- What causes the greatest worry for you at the moment?
- Is it a healthy concern, or an unhealthy anxiety?
- What might help you keep things in perspective?
- What does today's teaching mean for the decisions you make regarding your attitude towards money and possessions? Your decisions about resources?

## Lord's Supper

- **2 Corinthians 8.9**  
“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”