

life group study guide

February 23, 2014



A Rude Question and an Unexpected Story

Luke 16:13-21

Introduction: An old Spanish proverb reads, “There are no pockets in a shroud.” It’s a bit grim but the point stands – our material wealth is temporary. We toil and labor to accumulate money and ‘things’ in ways that often betray the true desire of our hearts. As the great preacher A.W. Tozer put it, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”

Opening question: Jesus said, “No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:13). Why would devotion to one cause hatred towards the other?

In this week’s text Jesus is preaching when evidently a man interrupts and wants Jesus to take resolve his family issues. In typical fashion – Jesus addresses the real issue.

Read Luke 12:13-21

- 1) Why would this man think Jesus was the appropriate person to handle his situation?
- 2) If a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions, what does it consist of?
- 3) What about the rich man’s worldview is revealed in this text?
- 4) Consider Jesus’ parable. Count the number of times the words “I” and “my” appear in this passage. What does this reveal about this man?
- 5) What is glaringly missing from the man’s planning?
- 6) God calls the man a fool. What label would our world have on this man?
- 7) In what ways are we tempted to focus on storing up things for ourselves? How does this prevent us from being rich towards God?
- 8) What boundaries can you establish in your life that foster being ‘rich towards God’ and guard our hearts against being a ‘fool’?