

The Rich Fool – May 24, 2017  
Bellevue Church of Christ – Auditorium Class

Possible this refers to the double-portion allotted to the firstborn. Deut 21:17

Since the older brother would have been executor of the estate, the appeal here would seem to be from the younger brother.

Greed goes beyond what is needed for "living," and becomes the object of man's search and worship. Therefore, "covetousness...is idolatry" (Col 3:5).

See Lk 12:1

"...many thousands of the people had gathered together."

Luke 12:13-21 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup>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?"

Crowd or 2 Brothers?

<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.**"

The parable is meant to illustrate the warning in v. 15

<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.

Notice all the personal pronouns. This man had no room in his life for God.

<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.**"'

James 4:13-16

<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?'** <- Ps 39:6; Ecc 2:18-19

<sup>21</sup>So is the one who **lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.**"

Why Would Jesus Not Arbitrate this Matter?

Matt 22:15-22

"render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's"

Matt 26:47-56

"Friend, do what you came to do."

John 8:3-11

"Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

John 18:33-38 (ESV)

"My kingdom is not of this world."

John 19:10-11 (ESV)

"You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above."

Since this is a parable, not an actual incident, Jesus can heighten certain elements that illustrate his point.

Fool

-One who rejects the ways of God as a basis for life.

-One who puts the full weight of their life on themselves.

Mt 6:19-24

1Ti 6:6-10

Jam 1:9-11

This contrast sums up the fundamental choice we all have regarding where we place our faith.

This handout can be downloaded in PDF format from: (teamagee.com/class)

The Dilemma

The Decision

The Delusion

The Destruction

The Definition

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## Crowd

### Luke 12:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> In the meantime, when so many thousands of the people had gathered together that they were trampling one another, he began to say to his disciples first, **“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”**

## Dividing Portions

### Deuteronomy 21:15–17 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> “If a man has two wives, the one loved and the other unloved, and both the loved and the unloved have borne him children, and if the firstborn son belongs to the unloved, <sup>16</sup> then on the day when he assigns his possessions as an inheritance to his sons, he may not treat the son of the loved as the firstborn in preference to the son of the unloved, who is the firstborn, <sup>17</sup> but he shall acknowledge the firstborn, the son of the unloved, by giving him a double portion of all that he has, for he is the firstfruits of his strength. The right of the firstborn is his.

## Arbitrate

*Christ never led a riot, organized an underground, criticized the government, or took the part of the Jews against Rome. He did not offer himself as an advocate against society on behalf of any so-called victim of social injustice; and, once, he even refused to aid a man who claimed that he had been robbed of his inheritance (Luke 12:13). Jesus Christ was not a revolutionary in any sense of that word today. Although it is true that his holy teachings had the profoundest influence upon the course of history, it was always as leaven and not as dynamite that his influence worked.<sup>1</sup>*

### Matthew 22:15–22 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. <sup>16</sup> And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, **“Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin for the tax.”** And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> And Jesus said to them, **“Whose likeness and inscription is this?”** <sup>21</sup> They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, **“Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”** <sup>22</sup> When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

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<sup>1</sup> Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Romans 13:1". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". "http://www.studylight.org/com/bcc/view.cgi?book=ro&chapter=013". Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

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**Matthew 26:47–56 (ESV)**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” <sup>49</sup> And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. <sup>51</sup> And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. <sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” <sup>55</sup> At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. <sup>56</sup> But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.

**John 8:3–11 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst <sup>4</sup> they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” <sup>6</sup> This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup> And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup> And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup> Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” <sup>11</sup> She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

**John 18:33–38 (ESV)**

<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” <sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” <sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.

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**John 19:10–11 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> So Pilate said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?” <sup>11</sup> Jesus answered him, “**You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin.**”

**Idolatry**

**Colossians 3:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**Laid Up for Many Years**

**James 4:13–16 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” — <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” <sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

**Whose Will They Be**

**Psalms 39:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Surely a man goes about as a shadow!  
Surely for nothing they are in turmoil;  
man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!

**Ecclesiastes 2:18–19 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, <sup>19</sup> and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

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**Treasure**

**Matthew 6:19–24 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>22</sup> “The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, <sup>23</sup> but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

<sup>24</sup> “No one 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.

**1 Timothy 6:6–10 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> But godliness with contentment is great gain, <sup>7</sup> for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup> But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

**James 1:9–11 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.