

“You fool”

Luke 12:13-21

“You fool”

Luke 12:13-14

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” **14** Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?”

“You fool”

Deuteronomy 21:17

17 He must acknowledge the son of his unloved wife as the firstborn by giving him a double share of all he has. That son is the first sign of his father's strength. The right of the firstborn belongs to him.

“You fool”

“Deuteronomy 21:17 gave the general rule that the elder son received double a younger one’s portion. Disputes over such matters were normally settled by rabbis.

The man’s request of Jesus was selfish and materialistic. There is no indication that the man had been listening seriously to what Jesus had been saying. Jesus replied with a parable about the consequences of greed.”

NIV 1984 Study Bible

“You fool”

Luke 12:15

15 Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

“You fool”

“Jesus says that the good life has nothing to do with being wealthy, so be on guard against greed (desire for what we don’t have). This is the exact opposite of what society usually says... Learn to tune out expensive enticements and concentrate instead on the truly good life—living in a relationship with God and doing His work.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

“You fool”

Luke 12:16-17

16 And he 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.’”

“You fool”

“Prudently, he [the rich fool] decides to build in order to store what has been provided. His error come in how he views what has become his.”

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“You fool”

Luke 12:18-19

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.”’

“You fool”

The fool uses the word “I” four times in verses 18-19. “He will not share his abundance, but keeps it for his own private use. His goal is to ease back and withdraw from life. He feels no concern or responsibility for anyone else.”

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“You fool”

Luke 12:20

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?’

“You fool”

“The Greek term for fool is a strong one. In this context it indicates not only stupidity, but moral and spiritual deficiency.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible
Background Commentaries**

“You fool”

Ecclesiastes 2:18-19

18 I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. **19** And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless.

“You fool”

“Ironically, the man who took such great care to prepare for his own (earthly) needs turns out to be a fool. Instead of fulfilling his moral responsibility to care for the needs of others, he is rebuked for “laying up treasures for himself” and not being “rich toward God.”

Though [these] verses do not prohibit wealth, Jesus clearly warns

His hearers concerning the dangerous eternal implications of wealth, with its seductive tendency toward complacency, self-sufficiency, and covetousness.”

“You fool”

Luke 12:21

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

“You fool”

“Jesus concludes that this is how it will be for any who pile up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God. Richness toward God means responding to life and blessing in a way that He desires, in a way that honors Him-through service and compassion.”

Darrell Bock

Application

You can't take it with you

Final Thoughts

“This text calls for self-examination. How do I feel about what God has given to me? Is it mine? Am I a steward of what has come my way? Am I generous? Do I take the things God has given to me and store them up for my own purposes? Do I seek to grab what others have?”

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Final Thoughts

1 Timothy 6:6-10

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. **8** But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

9 Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Final Thoughts

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. **14** For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.