

BE RICH TOWARD GOD!

Luke 12:13-21

Jelka, 22nd August 2015

Εἶπεν δέ τις ἐκ τοῦ ὄχλου αὐτῷ· διδάσκαλε, εἰπέ τῷ ἀδελφῷ μου μερίσασθαι μετ' ἐμοῦ τὴν κληρονομίαν.
¹⁴ ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἄνθρωπε, τίς με κατέστησεν κριτὴν ἢ μεριστὴν ἐφ' ὑμᾶς; ¹⁵ εἶπεν δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς· ὁρᾶτε καὶ φυλάσσεσθε ἀπὸ πάσης πλεονεξίας, ὅτι οὐκ ἐν τῷ περισσεύειν τινὶ ἡ ζωὴ αὐτοῦ ἐστίν ἐκ τῶν ὑπαρχόντων αὐτῷ. ¹⁶ Εἶπεν δὲ παραβολὴν πρὸς αὐτούς λέγων· ἀνθρώπου τινὸς πλουσίου εὐφόρησεν ἡ χώρα. ¹⁷ καὶ διελογίζετο ἐν ἑαυτῷ λέγων· τί ποιήσω, ὅτι οὐκ ἔχω ποῦ συναῶξ τοὺς καρπούς μου; ¹⁸ καὶ εἶπεν· τοῦτο ποιήσω, καθελῶ μου τὰς ἀποθήκας καὶ μείζονας οἰκοδομήσω καὶ συναῶξ ἐκεῖ πάντα τὸν σίτον καὶ τὰ ἀγαθὰ μου ¹⁹ καὶ ἐρῶ τῇ ψυχῇ μου, ψυχῇ, ἔχεις πολλὰ ἀγαθὰ κείμενα εἰς ἔτη πολλά· ἀναπαύου, φάγε, πίε, εὐφραίνου. ²⁰ εἶπεν δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ θεός· ἄφρων, ταύτη τῇ νυκτὶ τὴν ψυχὴν σου ἀπαιτοῦσιν ἀπὸ σοῦ· ἃ δὲ ἠτοίμασας, τί νί ἔσται; ²¹ οὕτως ὁ θησαυρίζων ἑαυτῷ καὶ μὴ εἰς θεὸν πλουτῶν.

Luke 12:13-21 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, ¹⁷ and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

OUTLINE

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- started with a demand for *justice* !!! → there are hidden motives behind overtly presented
- the wealth was not acquired by *injustice* ! → the problem was not *wealth* per se.
- the wealthy man *stopped working* for **more** → consumerist passivity

0.2. THE ESSENCE OF SIN

... a fugitive and a wanderer shalt thou be in the earth. (Gn 4:12)

- **1Tim 6:10** 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.

The characteristics of individuality are **independence** and self-assertiveness. There is nothing dearer to the heart of the natural man than **independence**, and as long as I live in the outskirts of my prideful independence Jesus Christ is nothing to me.¹

0.3. THE PROBLEM OF DESIRE

- advertising → “need”

1. YOU HAVE A GOD

- from the JUDGE → the SAVIOUR
- **Gn 15:1** "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."
(אַנְכִי מִגֵּן לְךָ שְׂכָרְךָ תְּרַבֶּה מְאֹד)."
- **1Cor 3:21** So let no one boast in men. **For all things are yours,**²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future- all are yours,

1.1. IN GOD YOU HAVE

- **Ex 15:2** The **LORD is my** strength and my song, and he has become my salvation;
- **Ex 17:15** The **LORD is my** banner,
- **Ps 16:5** The **LORD is my** chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
- **Ps 18:2** The **LORD is my** rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
- **Ps 23:1** The **LORD is my** shepherd;
- **Ps 28:7** The **LORD is my** strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.
- **Heb 13:6** "The **Lord is my** helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

1.2. MANY THINGS – OR ONE GOD!

- **Luke 10:41-42** "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things,⁴² but one thing is necessary."
- **Mt 6:24** You cannot serve God **AND** money.
- **Lk 14:16** A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. → field (property) ...oxen (work) ...wife (relationships)

2. YOU HAVE A FUTURE

2.1. A GLORIOUS FUTURE

- **John 14:3** I go and **prepare a place** for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.
- **1Cor 2:9** "What no **eye has seen**, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"
- **2Cor 4:17** For this slight momentary affliction (παραυτίκα ἐλαφρὸν τῆς θλίψεως) is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (ὑπερβολὴν αἰώνιον βάρους δόξης),

2.2. NOW – OR THEN!

- **Mt 6:19** "Do not lay up for yourselves **treasures on earth**, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,
- **Lk 16:25** Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you **in your lifetime** received your good things, and **Lazarus** in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.
- **Lk 16:9** make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings

3. YOU HAVE A LIFE-PROGRAM

- “saved to serve” → what can I do for others? – gifts to make others happy

¹ CHAMBERS, O. *Biblical ethics*,

- **Mt 20:3-4** ...going out about the third hour he saw others **standing idle** in the marketplace (ἑστῶτας ἐν τῇ ἀγορᾷ ἀργούς), ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you...

3.1. IMPORTANT JOB TO DO

- **Gal 6:9-10** ⁹ And let us not grow weary of **doing good**, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- **Lk 12:37** Blessed are those servants whom **the master** finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and **he will come and serve them**.
- **2Cor 6:10** ...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as **poor, yet making many rich**; as having nothing, yet possessing everything

3.2. THE DANGERS OF WAITING LONG

- **Mt 25:5** As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.
- **Lk 12:45** But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk,

4. TO REMEMBER

- You cannot serve too masters.
- There are two kinds of riches – one towards the *world* one towards *God*.
- To have God is the greatest wealth possible: you have (1) God, (2) future, (3) life-program