

Teachable Moments Luke 12:13-21

How is the “working from home” going for those doing so due to COVID 19?
How are you handling the interruptions?

In **Luke 12:13-21**, Jesus is working – He is preaching, teaching, leading His disciples, but he gets interrupted. **Jesus uses this as a teachable moment!**

The context of this parable is very similar to the parent working from home.

Rabbi Jesus expected to also be judge & arbitrator – Working Mom & Dad expected to also be day care worker & school teacher.

Some interruptions however, though still distracting, can lead to great opportunities for learning/growth. This is the power of Jesus’ parables!

An interrupted Jesus side steps & teaches about wealth, possessions, work, long-term planning, and what truly matters in relationship to those things.

Here are a few important details from Jesus’ interruption story:

- **“The land of a rich man produced plentifully...”**

What does this teach us about wealth? **It’s ultimately a gift from God!**

- The man was already rich, but he thought to himself, **“I will tear down my barns & build larger ones, & there I will store all my grain/goods”**

What does this teach us about his view of possessions? **That they were his to possess, not his to manage!** Is that how we see our possessions?

- After the man built larger barns & stored his possessions in them, he said **“Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink be merry.”**

What does this teach us about work, long term planning, retirement?

This man saw work as a means to an end. But God created us to work!

This man saw long term planning as only self-serving. What do we do with our abundance? God blesses us to be a blessing to others!

This man saw retirement as the end, not as an opportunity to serve in new ways. How do we see retirement? What are we retiring to?

- **The name of this parable is “The Rich Fool”** because that’s what God calls this man in this Jesus’ story.

Vs. 20 - “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?”

What an interesting detail to the story - God immediately demands this man’s life! Why? **Because life is not intended to be lived selfishly!**

Life is a gift from God to be used for God’s glory and for the good of others! If our only aim is to get to a place where we can just **“relax, eat, drink, & be merry”**, then there’s no reason for God to keep us on this earth any longer!

Here’s a Scripture to live by - **“When David was done serving God’s purpose in his own generation, he died!” – Acts 13:36** Keep serving God’s purpose!

The parable ends with a warning from Jesus, **“So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich towards God.” – Vs. 21**

True riches are not found in earthly possessions but in heavenly living!

Heavenly living stores up eternal treasures and leaves an eternal impact!

The rich fool was rich until the moment of his death, then he discovered he was eternally poor! **Earthly possessions are worthless in heavenly currency!**

Pursuing heavenly treasure also makes for a great perspective on earthly living as well! **We can be earthly poor, but if we know that we are heavenly rich we can live our lives with nothing, yet have everything!**

& when we know we have “everything” we can live generously here & now!

But what if living generously leads to not having enough to meet our needs? Jesus anticipates this question and answers it in the following verses.

Luke 12:22-34 – Seek God’s Kingdom & what you need will be given to you! Be a giver like God, & you’ll never need to be anxious/worried about your life!

“It’s your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” He has already given you the greatest of gifts & has met your greatest need in **Christ!**

Welcome the interruptions in your life, for in them you may just stumble upon the Kingdom of God & discover the way of eternal life! Communion is such an interruption, let us receive it with God’s intended effect in our lives!

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