

A business man's mistake - Thou fool

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[0:00] A businessman's mistake, or thou fool you could say, is Luke 12. We read of a man who made some foolish decisions.

! And we're going to pick it up from Luke 12, from verse 15. And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness.

For a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. So he's going to tell us a parable here of a man more concerned with things, with getting more and more, accumulating more and more possessions.

And drawing from that the message that life is more than things. The Lord didn't condemn the man for his wealth. It was his covetousness, his greed.

That he condemned. He forgot God. He neglected salvation. We read on of this man, and he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully.

[1:11] Can you imagine the picture there? This great harvest field, full of grain. It was abundant. Now, you could say this man had some good character traits. As much as he was wealthy, that wasn't necessarily a bad thing.

He was well off. He was prosperous. Money is not the root of all evil. The love of money is. This is the problem for the man, isn't it?

The love of money. It got a hold of him. Grabbed a hold of him. Riches can be useful if used wisely. It might be a blessing, indeed, for a Christian to have wealth that he can use wisely for the glory of God.

And this man, as a saint, you could say he had some good points. Perhaps you could understand it. He was successful in business. He obviously had some success, as the world would reckon it. He was a hard worker. You would expect it would have taken some hard work for him to have an abundant field, bringing forth plentifully. You could say he was a smart investor, as the world would reckon it.

[2:17] He was sharp with how he was using what he had, his land, his investments. It was very productive. It says the ground brought forth plentifully. The ground brought forth abundantly.

And so we read on. What happened next? Verse 17. And he, this rich man, he thought within himself, saying, Hmm, what shall I do? Because I have no room where to bestow my fruits.

This man was sensible with his money. He was careful about his future. As the world would reckon it. But he had a problem.

He'd run out of places to store his grain. He got so much, he didn't have anywhere to stack it. He had to make some changes because of the abundance that he had.

What shall I do? Here he is. He's talking to his soul. As we see later, he addresses his soul. Now, man is a spirit who has a soul, mind and emotions, which lives in a body.

[3:23] Really, it's our spirit that matters, isn't it? But this man, he seemed only interested with acquiring wealth. Just wanted to get wealth. You could say it was kind of like his religion.

His church, even. There was a three-year-old girl. Saw a huge bank with pillars. With these big columns in front of it.

And this fancy architecture. And she said, Look, there's a church. Some people think the bank is their church. What shall I do?

He cries out. But what was the businessman's mistake? He left God out. God wasn't in his thinking. God wasn't in his thoughts. His plans didn't include God. He didn't say, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? He says, within himself. What shall I do?

[4:20] I. He was directing his life without God. It's like so many do, isn't it? His life was without purpose because it was without God. Without God.

We need to seek to know and to do God's will. With things. With our life. As we know, our Lord says, Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

And all these things shall be added unto you. But you think of this man, this rich man. He was self-centered. What shall I do? He was all caught up with himself.

It's interesting in these verses, he used I and mine six times. I and mine. Just in these few verses. I don't know what I'll do.

And then I do know what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns. And I'll build bigger, new barns. And I will say to my soul. Soul, that has much goods laid up.

[5:19] Take thine ease. Eat, drink and be merry. That's how it reads really here. As we see, he considered his things his own. My fruits. My barn.

My goods. Even my soul. Very self-centered, wasn't he? As we read here, verse 18. He said, this will I do. I will pull down my barns.

And build greater. And there will I bestow all my fruits. And my goods. God wasn't in the picture for this man. The businessman's mistake.

He made a number of awful mistakes here. He was only concerned with stowing the money away. He didn't ask how to serve God with the use of his money.

He was a big shop. With big plants. And he was interested in tearing down. Building new, bigger barns. Bigger, yet bigger barns. More, more, more. To store the new grain.

[6:17] All of his grain. He looked like he had it made, didn't he? The world would look on this man and think, here's a success story. This man was not striving to become rich.

He was already rich. But he wanted to get just a little bit richer. Just more. Just a little bit more. You know, Mr Rockefeller was asked one time.

Mr Rockefeller, very wealthy man. He was asked one day, Mr Rockefeller, you have all the wealth that your heart could desire.

All the material possessions that money can purchase. What else do you want? And Mr Rockefeller said, just a little more money.

Wasn't enough. Wasn't enough for him. Just a little more. More, more, more. So true, isn't it, of the world today, of those without God, that their life's consumed with just the vanities of this temporal life without thought of eternity.

[7:19] He did the smart thing, people would think. He made big plans. And he wanted to prepare for the future. But the businessman's mistake.

He failed to plan and prepare for eternity. There was no plan for eternity here. The Bible urges us to store up our money in heaven, not on earth.

In the sense of, that should be our focus. That should be our attention. That should be our priority. Heaven, not earth. Verse 19, we read on.

And I will say to my soul. My soul. Soul. Thou hast much goods laid up for many years. Take thine ease.

Eat, drink, and be merry. It's the philosophy of many, isn't it? Which really is a couple of times talked about in the Bible. Eat, drink, and be merry. As if that's all it is.

[8:18] Glug, glug, glug. Munch, munch, munch. Merry, merry, merry. But no, eternity's coming. And this man seemed to think that his riches would be a comfort for him.

When he was hoarding them up. But really they only became a care and a burden to him. You know, what am I going to do? I've got too much. I've got to build bigger barns to put it in.

And so his love and his longing for peace and comfort. His obsession with his personal satisfaction, with joy, with security. With his own fulfilment.

As the self-made man that he was. It was all failing. It was all a miserable failure. Because really he'd left out the fundamental ingredient. God.

Money shouldn't be our aim in life. Otherwise it owns us. Instead of us owning it. Greed is taking what God has blessed you with.

[9:16] Without thought of how you could use it. Usefully for the kingdom of God. Here he was, this man. You can imagine him surrounded by others. He could have helped.

But he did not think of others. He never even thought about helping anyone else. Or sharing with anyone else. He just wanted more. And amassing more for himself.

His only goal was really, a bit like this man pictured here. Just to sit back, you know. Maybe have the newspaper over his head or a book or his hat. And just sit in the sun and just take it easy. Just stretch out and lay back in the easy chair. In the deck chair. In the sun. Just take it easy. Take life easy. Eat, drink and be merry.

He was a greedy man. Living in a needy world. But the big mistake of the businessman was to take little thought for God. God wasn't in the thinking of the man.

[10:14] Of who made and owned him. He says, my barns, my goods, my fruits, my soul. He acted like he was the one who owned it all. He forgot that he was just a steward for what God had given him.

He seemed to only think of his body and its needs. It's like it tells elsewhere of some whose God is their belly. They just want to feed themselves. And overfeed.

Such that the body almost is their God. God. And so he was forgetting the needs of his very soul. The businessman's mistake.

Another mistake he made was that he thought he had plenty of time. Plenty of time. He thought he had many years ahead of him. I've got to put it in the barns.

In this new barns so I can have it for seasons ahead. But he thought he had many years ahead. But no. It was not so. He wasn't going to even see one more sunrise.

[11:15] He planned for time. But not for eternity. It's a big mistake, isn't it? And this is the big mistake many people think. That this life is all that there is.

He says take life easy. Relax. Kick back. He thought things would satisfy him. But he had not found the peace of God in Christ. You could see that illustrated in effect there.

That his mind was just focused on the getting. Then on eternity. Then on the things of God. And God came in judgment to him.

It was a shock. His destiny now was to be sent to hell. As we read verse 20. We see. But God. God interrupted.

This relaxing in the sun. But God. Said unto him. Thou fool. This night. Thou fool. He thought he was a smart dude.

[12:16] But no. He was not really a wise guy. He was a fool. A fool. This night. This night. Tonight.

Thy soul shall be required of thee. Then who shall those things be? Which thou hast provided. He was obsessed with the things. This was not a nightmare.

It was a reality. This was no dream. It was this night. God came. And he filled the barn builder's soul with dread. We see the man's awful awakening.

The shock. The surprise. The horror. God confronts him. But God. God rebukes him. Thou fool. A fool. A fool is a person who is mindless.

Senseless. Your soul. Is required. One soul is precious. One soul is worth more than 10,000 worlds. One soul.

[13:19] One soul. Is worth all the wealth that. The universe has really. Far more. One soul is so precious in the sight of God. He seems so smart.

So prepared. But really he was foolish and unprepared. And this man's soul is demanded. One day God shall require thy soul.

Yours. And mine. Our God is a consuming fire. He shall send those who reject Christ to hell. Notice the word. Things. Things.

Some people no longer possess things. But the things possess them. Don't they? See people like that. They live for money. And things. There was a man who owned land.

Who was talking to a preacher one day. I think I've shared this before. And the preacher came over to his big estate. And the man was showing him around all the paddocks and hills.

[14:19] And there's hills on hills with all of his sheep and cattle on them. And he says I own land over here. Over here. In all directions. He

says that's all mine.

All of this land is all mine. As the preacher stood with him. He owned land in all directions. But one. But one. He didn't have a heavenly estate.

He only had dirt. For human life. But for eternity. He did not have a home in heaven. And you know. We can own land in all directions.

But it's knowing that you've got heaven. That matters. Isn't it? And that was the mistake of this businessman. Because things are temporary aren't they? In 2 Corinthians 4.18 it says that. We look not at the things which are seen. For the things that are seen are temporal. Or temporary. It's the things that are unseen.

[15:20] That matter truly. And the truth is that in reality. We own nothing in the absolute sense. Because God owns everything. It's alright to have things. But realise God's ownership of your things.

And your responsibility to use things wisely. Do we give our things to God? Do we manage our time? Talents? Treasure for God?

This man accumulated wealth. But he does not use it wisely. He hoards his money. And only plans to make more money. It's vain isn't it?

Truly. And the Lord Jesus argued against greed. Failing to serve God and help others. Rather be a good manager of your time.

Of your life. And your talent. Your treasure. Use it for the glory of God. Death is coming. For you. Then who will get it all? Ultimately.

[16:17] Ultimately. You're not going to have any charge of it. Ultimately. Whoever's going to scramble for what's left. Of your bits and pieces. They're going to have your things. So what does it profit a man?

If he gain the whole world. Lose his own soul. What's the profit? There's no profit in that. This man woke up. But it was too late. But God.

This night. Thou fool. Thou fool. This night. I'm going to require thy soul. Some will hear the scriptures. Some will go to church. They'll hear the gospel. But yet.

They will put it off. Because we know the word of God says. Behold now is the accepted time. This night. This night. This night.

Get a grip of. Of the. Urgency of that. The salvation appeal. May not be.

[17:15] Hurt again. This could be your last time. This night. Thy soul shall be required of thee. No. No amount of money. Can keep God from declaring. Your life is over now.

This man wasn't expecting. To suddenly have to. Face God. That night. God. The same God. Who gives us the breath. That we breathe.

He can come along. And snatch it away. Snatch that breath away. Without any. Foreknowledge of our part. We could suddenly be taken. We know that can happen.

And God summoned this man's soul away. This rich man. Rich men grow old. Just like other people. Some of them also die young. And in middle life. Just like other people.

And as life rushes by. The daily wear and tear. Of hustle and bustle. We can see more and more. How people can. Die suddenly. Death sometimes comes.

[18:13] In the night. It says this night. You might not wake up. In the morning. This is a morbid sermon tonight. No honestly. It could be. Couldn't it? It's true. You might not wake up.

In the morning. This night. Could be the night. We cannot tell. It may happen anytime. Anytime. If we honestly believe. That today could be.

The very last day. Of our lives. Could we just stop. Doing some of the things. And start doing some things. If we really believe. That we could stop.

Living. Tonight. Or don't we get right with God. If we're not. Just look at the time. Look at the day. Could this be the day? Could this be the night? Could it be today? Thy soul.

Required of thee. That ought to wake us up. Surely. This man's wealth was scattered. Those new barns that he talked about. They were never built. He wasn't. Prepared.

[19:10] Are you? Seriously. It's timely. Isn't it? To think. And so is he. That layeth up treasure. For himself. And is not rich. Toward God. God speaks to us.

And he calls us to himself. This man. Was a miserable. Fool. He turns to you and me. Our God. And he asks us the question. Who will get what you have prepared.

For yourself. It's not going with you. We won't take one cent. With us. And there's nothing really gained. From storing up. Things for ourselves.

Material possessions. It talks about being rich. Toward God. What are true riches? Think of it. What are true riches? Imagine if you were swept ashore.

On an unfriendly little island. A shipwrecked sailor. And you're starving hungry. And one day. A little box suddenly floats to the shore. It's swept ashore by the tide.

[20:05] And you rush eagerly. To that box. Thinking it might be something to eat. But. And as you open the box. You find. To your disappointment.

Oh no. It's just some passengers pearls. You know. Back home. It might have meant a lot to you. Having. Loads of pearls. And riches.

And stuff. But. As you're sitting on this seashore. You want something to eat. That's what you want. And really. That's useless to you. All of those jewels. Are really. Worthless.

Because you can't eat them. And what good will they be? It's the same with eternal things. Isn't it? And when we think of possessions. In contrast. In comparison with eternity.

Really. There's no comparison. Is there? We think of worldly enjoyments. They're just like a flower. Beautiful. In many ways. But they're fading. You know.

[21:00] You've got some probably in your garden. Like I have in mine. And they're wonderful to look at. The flowers. Blooming. An orchid can last for months. But that is all.

It will eventually die. Other flowers might produce only one flower. A year. That blooms for one night. And only for a couple of hours. And then it dies. And yet it is a most beautiful flower.

Such is life. Fading. Isn't it? Man. It's like a grass. It's like the flower. That fades. It falls. Our life is fleeting. It's passing.

Life is a vapour. Think of the flowers that the groomsmen put on their suits. For the wedding. On the Saturday. They're beautiful. As they pin them to their suits.

But ten hours later. Those flowers look pathetic. And so also are the temptations of the world. Aren't they? They're glorious in their own way. But they're fading. And James 2.5 says.

[21:58] We can become rich. Wealthy. In faith. There's a sense where faith is much more of value. Than all of the things. The trinkets of earth. Because the Bible says.

That wealth really is uncertain. You know wealth. You might have stacks of money. But the Bible talks about those who are rich in this world. In 1 Timothy 6.17 it says.

Charge them that are rich in this world. That they be not high minded. Nor trust in uncertain riches. But in the living God. Who gives us richly all things.

To enjoy. Uncertain riches. There's a contrast there. 1 Timothy 6.17. Talks about the contrast. Uncertain riches. Money is not secure.

You know. If Australia goes broke one day. Those hundred dollar bills. Will just be useful for a fire paper. To burn. To cook something on your stove.

[22:55] If you've got a wood stove. But you know. You see that back in Germany. In the great depression days. And you know. When a nation becomes bankrupt. Even money is not secure.

It's not certain. It's uncertain. Money can be lost. It can be stolen. It can be wiped out. You know. Those dollars and cents. In your bank account. They could just suddenly be wiped out.

Overnight. As there's some bank failure. Or stock market crash. We know. Really. There's no guarantees. Of money. Of wealth. As the world would count it.

Because it's uncertain. Uncertain riches. And we see the man. That we're telling us tonight. This man longed for security. But he never found it. Friends.

Real security is not from money. Money cannot give total security. There could be a total economic collapse. Money won't help at all. In time of famine. Money lets you buy what food there is.

[23:53] But when there is truly no food left. You cannot eat money. You could try. But I don't think it tastes very good. But when a loved one has died. Money lets you buy beautiful flowers.

For their funeral. But not another minute. Of their company. Unlike money. God is always with us. Isn't he? God always has the power to. Help us.

To truly secure us. If we'll let him. God can provide for our needs. And he gives us the security. That money can never buy. He never changes.

He never leaves us. Nor forsakes us. And he's always there to keep us. That belief. You know we can be like that foolish man. That business man's mistake.

Really isn't it? He made a great mistake. And some say. If only I had enough money. I could do what I wanted. And then I would be happy. It's like chasing the carrot on the stick.

[24:51] Isn't it? I just think. If I get enough money. Then I can be truly happy. And they put off. Really living for God. Until they've got more. In the bank balance.

But really. If we truly know God. If we truly trust him. He can satisfy us truly. Anything else. Will leave us empty. No matter how many other things.

We might fill our lives with. As some of us. Described it. There's a God shaped vacuum. Now it's only a picture. A way of picturing it.

But there's truly that emptiness. Isn't there? Only he can fill that void. Only he can truly fill. Only he can truly give that satisfaction. That relationship with him. Otherwise we're just left empty.

And. An aching emptiness fills us. Rather the Bible says. Delight yourself in the Lord. God. And he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37.

[25:50] 4 and 5. Think of how God truly values you. You're very precious. Each one. And. He wants you to come to him. Now this man in the story.

He longed for ease. And relaxation. For satisfaction. For rest. But that inward peace was missing. That real rest. As we talked earlier today.

Of the one who says. Come unto me. I will give you rest. Rest for your souls. He missed that. That real peace. Of God. He didn't have it. And so we see.

Only that. Real trust. That rest. That security. That is in Christ. That knowledge of him. Of faith in Christ. That saves us. And secures our salvation. That can be our trust.

Today. Think of it. This man. He thought he had it made. Kicking back.

[26:46] Thinking he had plenty of time. Then death comes. Death comes. Unexpectedly. Death can creep up on us. And it comes. Without us expecting. And we.

Will have to face. Eternity. We can be. As this man is. And death catches up on him. You know. Death comes as a surprise.

And he faces judgment. He's lost without Christ. He's facing the judgment throne. His name is not written. In the Lamb's book of life. And he's got a face. Being taken. Being thrown into the lake of fire.

The picture is of. Salvation. We must trust Christ. This side of the grave. Because one day. We'll be caught like the fool. In that parable is. And there is a surefire way.

To. To get rich. A surefire way. To get rich. A guaranteed way. We can get rich quick. And that is. But seek ye first. The kingdom of God. His righteousness. All these things.

[27:43] Shall be added unto you. Only God can fully meet. The needs. Of our life. Rather than chasing after things. Like the. Man in the story. Let us turn. To the living God.

Seek after him. Because now is the accepted time. Today is the day. Of salvation. Amen. Praise God.

So think what God has given. That really. He's provided everything. The Lord Jesus has provided everything. But most of all. Important. That God has provided salvation.

As a gift. Have we neglected. So great salvation. Now is the accepted time. To trust Christ. Now we've been talking about money. And possessions. This man. He had the things.

He focused on that. But he missed out. On the things of God. He missed out on salvation. You know. What a shame. To neglect. So great salvation. What is saying to miss.

[28:37] That. Gospel gift. Of eternal life. As we trust Christ. As our saviour. We've been talking about the soul. And preparing for. Eternity.

The Bible talks about those. Poor in this world. But rich in faith. It's not how much money. We've got in the bank account. It's whether we've got faith. That's what true riches is. Isn't it? That's true

wealth.

Don't trust in uncertain riches. But in the living God. Trust in the living God. And we could see. The story could have been different. For that fool. But rather he could have trusted Christ. He could have come.

As the salvation appeal was given. Jesus saith unto him. I am the way. The truth. And the life. No man cometh unto the father. But by me. If it had just heard that appeal. As the picture.

Of this cartoon picture. Of the story. If it trusted Christ. As the preacher had called him to. Then he could have been saved. Are we prepared when the night comes.

[29:35] When this night comes. This night thy soul. Is required. Are we ready to face. Our maker. Have we trusted in Christ. In his death on the cross for us. In our place.

Have we used the things of life wisely. As a believer. Are we rich toward God. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. And thou shalt be saved. Believe on him.

Consider the business man's mistake. If only it's bowed his head. And said I trust Jesus Christ. As my Lord and Saviour. If only he said I believe. Jesus died on the cross for my sins.

If only he had trusted Christ. He could have been. Then a glowing Christian example as well. A witness in his workplace. As a testimony for his faith. In his daily living.

He could have been a testimony. For the glory of God. Likewise in the home place. Living for Christ. In leading his family. In being a joyful Christian. In fellowshiping.

[30:30] In being an active believer. In being a part of a church. And standing with the fellowship. He could have been one who was active in witnessing. Reaching out. Telling the gospel to others.

And sharing the message of salvation with other souls. He could have been a man who was bringing up his family. In the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Encouraging his children to follow the Saviour.

He could have been a man who was actively ministering. Reaching out to people. And blessing them. And sharing the faith. And he could have been a man who's on his knees.

Asking God. For God's will for his life. What does God want for me? Rather than what I want for myself. And when the time comes. When death comes. As it will come.

To every believer. It says. As he would say. Take my hand Lord Jesus. I'm coming home. We can have that knowledge. That we're going home. And when death comes. We know really.

[31:24] It's just a moment. We'll be with our Saviour. It says. To be absent from the body. Is to be present with the Lord. And for the believer. When we face. Our Lord. He will say to you.

Well done. Thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy. Of thy Lord. We know that. It's going to be a welcome home. As we receive the gospel. As we hear it. And to act upon it.

We can be quite different. From the full. That was pictured before. So as believers. Are we rich in faith. Trusting in. His grace. Are we.

Acknowledging his mercy. And grace. And living. For him. For his glory. Our security. And satisfaction. And rest. Is not found. In chasing after the things.

But rather. Surrendering ourselves. To the Saviour. In trusting his great gift. And receiving that. And acting upon it. And then we can be a testimony. For the glory of God.

[32:21] In our lives ahead. So I trust tonight. You see the picture. As we've seen that. The business man's mistake. As we've talked about. That he was a man. Who was.

Neglecting his very soul. He neglected salvation. And that's the. A great mistake. Isn't it? That we can have all the trappings. Of. Of this life. But have that. That awful mistake.

Of missing eternity. Of missing salvation. And not being prepared. When the time comes. When it's this night. We've got to face the reckoning. And if we're outside of Christ.

If we've not trusted him. We've not believed on Jesus. As our Lord and Saviour. Then we're outside. Of. His grace. And. And we face. His great wrath.

And judgment. But. Thank God. His grace avails. His free gift is extended. And you can receive it. You can receive salvation. By faith. As you receive that. Gift that he has given.

[33:17] In dying in our place on the cross. And rising to life. Let us pray. Lord we thank you for the. Message here of this man. That was a

