

# VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

## Sunday morning teaching plan

Date: 5th January 2025



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| <b>TITLE:</b> | Parable of the Foolish Rich Man. Luke 12:13-21                       |
| <b>THEME:</b> | When we get distracted by money we lose something better– God        |
| <b>AIM:</b>   | Understand that we should seek God first as our time here is limited |

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The context of the parable is Jesus responding to a request for Jesus to settle a financial dispute. Jesus clearly is not concerned by the man's money issues and turns it into an opportunity to teach about putting God before money. The parable appears to have more than one clear message. Firstly, that focussing on storing your wealth up for some distant future is futile as we have no control over the length of our life. (It is not advocating no pensions or saving, but excessive greed.) Secondly, it has a meaning about selfishness and greed. That money is no use if it is hoarded away, it needs to be shared around. Thirdly, it has a message about making plans without involving God!

### WARM UP

- Money race.** Can be played in teams or individually. Spread a load of "money" around the room. When given the "go" instruction, they collect as much as they can in 15 seconds. Add it up. The twist is... they must pass it all on to the person on their left. Declare a winner!
- Rice Race.** Relay race in two teams. Who can carry the most rice from one end to the other in a teaspoon?

### MAIN TEACHING

#### Activity 1. Watch 6 minute clip on Greed /Luke 12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnvPnQbcny8>

- How is greed seductive? 2. Why is it easy to become greedy? 3. What is the correct attitude to have towards "stuff" and wealth? 4. What do 1 Tim6:9 and Hebrews 13:5 teach about greed?

**Key teaching point:** Greed sneaks into all our lives. From picking the largest slice of cake on the plate to asking for thirds at dinner or piling your plate at a buffet. We all like to upgrade equipment even if there is nothing wrong with what we have. We don't seem to think that greed is a sin. But it is. Greed is a form of idolatry... putting something before God. To overcome greed we must realise that wealth and stuff are temporary and we will always be better off and happier putting God first.

#### Activity 2

In **ch 12** Jesus teaches the disciples about proper priorities. This includes recognizing that God knows all things, even secrets. Believers should honour God more than they fear death, or than they worry about things like food and clothes. Christians are to remain ready for Christ's return, even as faith separates

those who believe from those who do not. These ideas revolve around the central theme of verse 34: that a person's heart reflects what they value most.

**Talk through the flow diagram of ch 12 on PPT...** to get context of why this parable is there and how it fits with what Jesus was teaching on as a contrast between faith and greed.

### Read Luke 12: 13-21

1. If you could ask Jesus anything, what would it be?
2. The man in the story has Jesus' full attention and can ask Him anything at all. Why does he ask Jesus to sort out his financial issue?
3. Look at Jesus' response to the man... *"Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."* What does it reveal about Jesus' attitude to money and greed?
4. How does greed distract us from God and Jesus?

### Activity 3

**Discussion on how the parable ends. How do they feel about it?** It seems rather harsh from human standards. This man has worked all his life to earn his wealth and then he cannot enjoy it. However, the lesson is two fold. **Firstly**, that God is sovereign in the world. We have no control over how long we live or what the future holds for us. We need to live with that in mind. This does not mean we don't plan for the future but we must include God in our plans. Planning an eternity with God and surrendering to His will is better than storing up money on earth. *The man in the parable made a choice to ignore God and trust in his money. It was the wrong choice.* **Secondly**, Scripture promotes generosity and sharing of wealth rather than hoarding. God wants His people to be generous with what He has given them. God is our provider, He is the source of our wealth. We must have a mind-set of sharing it with those less fortunate.

Bible verse look up! Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, Proverbs 22:9, 1 Timothy 6:17-18, Matthew 6:24

What do these verses teach about money? How does this affect me?

### TAKEAWAY

**Quiet time of reflection.** How can I be less greedy? Think about all the ways we can be greedy. What can I change?

How can I be more generous? (Remember God has give us resources to use for **us** as well as others!)

### POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

Fake paper money available

Bag of rice/ teaspoons and paper cups for race.