

# "BUT GOD SAID!"

Luke 12:13-21

## I. INTRODUCTION:

A. We say things that never come to pass. **WHY?**

1. Primarily, due to a lack of authority or the failure to exercise it; OR in **most instances** it's from a lack of power, resolve, or resources.

2. **On the other hand, by comparison, what God says will and does come to pass. For example:**

a. <sup>1</sup>In *Gen. chap. 1* we see *creation taking place at God's word; then again* <sup>2</sup>*in Gen. 2:17* what God told Adam and Eve came to pass; *and the list goes on.*

B. **J.F.B. Commentary:** "*These words flowed from Jesus' heart and lips at a time when He had begun to speak out more plainly than ever before."*

1. **Reason:** He was nearing the end of His ministry on earth.

2. As we near the Return of Christ, *ministers need to speak out more plainly than ever before!!*

C. If there has ever been a generation or a time when people need to **hear and heed** these words of Jesus, **it is in these times** and in our generation. **WHY?** *There are several reasons:*

1. **Jesus gave this parable to reveal the dangers that lurk in a covetous heart.**

2. **Covetousness is the opposite of thankfulness**, which is characterized by *giving of thanks because of being thankful, and content with what we have.*

a. Placing material things over personal relationships has disastrous consequences; as seen in marriages, families, and one's relationship with God.

3. Apostle Paul warns us that in the last days "*men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous., unthankful, and unholy, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.*" (2 Tim 3:2)

a. These *maladies* characterized the rich farmer in this parable, *and so many people today.*

b. Of all the generations to live upon the earth, ours has **more, so much more**, to covet (and **ways to have the things** which are coveted)...than perhaps any other generation.

## II. REASONS CHRIST SPOKE SO PLAINLY ON COVETOUSNESS

A. Jesus knew the true motive behind the request made by the man and the dangers that lurk in a covetous heart.

**Luke 12:16** "*And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*"

A. The *increase he was given began to affect him*. Verse 17 "He (rich man) thought within himself."

1. The increase began to consume his thoughts and steal his heart away from eternal and spiritual things. **Has it happened to you?**

a. How many things have we allowed to unduly affect us and steal our hearts away from eternal and spiritual things? TV? Pleasure? Entertainment? Sports? Recreation? Money, I-Pods, Smart Phone, I-Pad, *social media*?

2. In this parable Jesus warns that being covetous, and "coveting things" as well as riches, bring with them an increase load of cares and dangers.

**Luke 12:15** "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."

2. **Hear also what Paul said in: 1 Tim. 6:9** "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition (purgatory, eternal damnation)."

a. In a sly but dangerous way, things and riches, also steal our affections away <sup>1</sup>from God, <sup>2</sup>the things of God, and <sup>3</sup>the work and Word of God.

**Col. 3:2-4** "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

"Appear" is in reference to His appearing at the end of the tribulation period, not at the Rapture when He comes unexpectedly as a thief for His bride.

3. Satan knows that **once the believer's heart is stolen**, he/she then loses sight of the important realities that he/she faces. **Such as:**

a. We have a **spiritual life to cultivate**.

b. A **heart to be purified and kept pure** if we are to see God; **1 Jn.3:1-3**

c. A judgment to face; *even though we're already saved*.

d. A soul to be saved from eternal death and damnation; **There is the ever-present danger of backsliding**.

### III. WHAT THE SCRIPTURE RECORD REVEALS.

A. The rich man was a success, and he had made his money honestly.

1. Evidently he wasn't a bad or vicious man.

2. Have you noticed that it seems *everyone unites in condemning him in spite of his honesty, industriousness, and prosperity?* Why??

a. *He was taken up with the gift and forgot the Giver*. **Have we?**

b. His was a selfish and arrogant sense of possession by right, and a *sense of righteousness, but not by grace. Believers are to be stewards!!*

c. We should ask ourselves, "Who does God have in mind besides me, in blessing me so greatly? (He seldom has **only us** in mind).

*"A man wrapped up in himself alone, always makes a very small package."*

3. We recognize the rich man's problem, but what about us? *Are we so absorbed with things that God has blessed us with that we have forgotten God, our neighbor, our brothers in Christ? Have we forgotten the great commission?*

B. There are perils with prosperity (**See attached scriptures: Prov. 30:7-9**)

1. Wealth can choke out (Grk. Choke = "to strangle completely, drown") the Word of God (**See attached scriptures Matt. 13:22, Mk. 4:19**).

2. Wealth can create snares and temptations (**See 1 Tim. 6:6-10, 17-19**).

3. Wealth can give a false sense of security (**See Luke 12:15**).

4. People say that money does not satisfy, but it does satisfy if you want to live **only on that level.**

People, who are satisfied only with money and the things that it can buy, are in *great danger of losing the things that money cannot buy.*

C. *Jesus did not picture this farmer enjoying life; He saw him facing death, judgment, and eternity and all of these in a lost condition!*

1. Wealth cannot keep us alive when our time comes to die, nor can it buy back the opportunities to lay up treasures in Heaven we missed, while we were thinking of ourselves and ignoring God, His will, and others.

One second after death, the hand of the multimillionaire is not able to write a check for one dollar.

C. Now, before you feel sorry for this man remember, "The greatest tragedy is not what the man left behind but what lay before him: eternity without God!

1. The man lived without God and died without God, as a result, his wealth (accumulation of earthly things) *was but an incident (event) in his life.*

2. Living for material possessions can blind us to the future and **make us unprepared for the Lord's return.**

a. We can get so wrapped up in this world's goods that we neglect eternity. **And Satan knows it!!**

3. We must be servants who are *faithfully watching for the Bridegroom* (Luke 12:35-40) and **working for the Master** (Lu. 12:41-48).

4. He will come as a thief (Luke 12:39; 1 Thess. 5:2; Rev. 16:15), **so we must be always ready.**

#### IV. MAN PROPOSES AND GOD DISPOSES. (See Jas. 4:13-15)

A. The rich man failed to distinguish between the soul and the body.

1. When he said, "*Soul*" *thou hast much goods laid up for many years*" - he put the wrong address on the envelope. **It should have been "*body or self.*"**

2. He made the same common blunder that so many are making today -- ***you cannot satisfy the soul with material things!***

**Mark 8:36** "*For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"*

**Luke 12:15** "*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.*"

B. "***Laid Up For Many Years.***" In thinking and planning for this life, he forgot the next. Many are guilty of the same today.

1. In ***thinking of time*** he ***forgot eternity.***

2. In ***thinking of the future,*** he ***forgot his mortality.***

3. He said, "*Laid up for many years*", but God said, "*This night!*"

C. In ***thinking of himself*** he ***forgot his neighbor.***

1. Observe the personal pronoun: MY, MY, MY; But never once "My neighbor" or "God has."

2. ***His barns were bursting but many of his neighbor's pantries were empty!***

a. Sure you're saved, but there are many who aren't.

3. ***Many people's bank account is in good shape while their church struggles.***

D. Look at verse 20 "***So is he***" [meaning "***anyone***"].

1. Jesus uses this expression to teach that this is not an individual or isolated case;

2. All who make this life their portion, and who are destitute of the peace and salvation of God, will, ***sooner or later***, be surprised in the same way.

B. He said to himself, to his soul, "***Take thine ease.***"

1. **If God had only spoken,** "***Take thine ease,***" the man would have been safe and happy.

2. But what God had to say was quite the contrary; and ***it is by His judgment of us, that we will stand or fall, not by ours of ourselves.***

a. Are we at ease in the Church because God has said, "***Take thine ease,***" ***if not then we would do well to stir ourselves and that right soon?***

2. His neighbors probably envied him, and praised him as doing well for himself; but God said he did harm for himself, and played the fool.

C. He had only made arrangements for the gratification of his fleshly, sensual appetites; **and, in the very night in which he had finally finalized all his plans, his soul was called to the judgment bar!**

1. *What a dreadful awakening for a soul, long asleep in sin!*

a. He is now ushered into the presence of his Maker; none of his worldly goods can accompany him, and **he has not a shred of heavenly treasure!**

**CONCLUSION:** If this man had been wise he would have exclaimed, "Soul, thou hast been long neglected! The time has come when you and I must attend to the things that make for peace and eternal life." **Is this the case with you?**

A. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

B. What have you said unto your soul lately? What is God saying??"

1. God said just the opposite of what the rich man said.

**1 Cor. 10:12** "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

C. The wise man commits his soul to God, the foolish man's soul **is required of him or costs him** his in the end.

D. What would God have to say to you today in your present spiritual condition? **Well done, or thou fool?**

1. Remember it is by His judgment of us that we will stand or fall, **not by our opinions about ourselves or what others have to say.**

2. Isn't it time that you attend to the things that make for peace and eternal life?

3. Have you given much thought to your mortality, to facing God; to helping your neighbor, or witnessing to him/her? **Isn't it time that you did?**

4. Has God said to you, "Take thine ease you have done enough, and you have **much treasure and reward laid up in heaven?**"

**Heb. 11:13-14** "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, ... **and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.** 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country."

5. Have you lost your pilgrim character and become an "**earth dweller?**"

**Luke 21:34-35** "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. 35 **For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.**"