

# LEGACY

OF GRACE DEVOTIONAL  
POSSESSIONS AND PURPOSE

OCTOBER 11, 2020

GRACE  
FELLOWSHIP

**Discussion Starter #1:** What are some benefits of material prosperity? What are some burdens of material prosperity?

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

This parable of the rich farmer is part of a larger passage of Scripture that begins in Luke 12:1. The farmer in Jesus’ parable had a year in which everything had come together in just the right way—just the right quality of soil, just the right amount of sun and rain. His crop was so plentiful he had nowhere to store it all – he had a hoarding mentality – so he decided to tear down his old barns build bigger barns to hoard it all. He thought his future was secure; his life motto became “dine, wine, recline, and shine!” (v.19). But rather than having a long life of leisure ahead of himself, his life would end that very night. God called him a fool because he never gave a thought about God or eternity (v.20). Let’s learn some valuable lessons about our values from the rich but foolish farmer.

## 1. Money is material; thus, it cannot fulfill our deepest needs which are spiritual.

There is a humorous story about a nun who was driving along an interstate when she ran out of gas. She walked to a nearby gas station to buy some gas. The attendant at the station did not have a gas can, so he took a 2-liter bottle of Doctor Pepper out of the refrigerator and filled the bottle with gas. The nun walked back to the car and poured the gas out of the Dr. Pepper bottle into the tank. A passing driver observed the scene, slowed down, lowered his window and said to the nun, “I admire your faith, Sister, but I don’t think its going to work!”

Just as the car was not made to operate on Dr. Pepper, we humans were not made to operate on money. Money is material; thus, it cannot satisfy our deep life needs which are spiritual. Jesus said in Luke 12:15: “One’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” In his book *Confessions*, St. Augustine said, “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.”

**Discuss:** How could you share the gospel with someone who believes that life-fulfillment is found in money and possessions?

## 2. Money is temporary; thus, it cannot meet our deepest needs which are eternal.

In addition to the fact that money is material and thus cannot fulfill our deepest needs which are spiritual, money is also temporal and transient and thus cannot fulfill our deepest needs which are eternal. Notice in Jesus' parable of the rich farmer the sharp contrast between the farmer's illusion of "*many years*" (v.19) and the reality of "*This night your soul is required of you*" (v.20). Centuries later, money is still limited by its temporary quality.

As family and friends gathered at the cemetery for the burial of the town's wealthiest citizen, one of the mourners said, "I wonder how much money he left." Another of the mourners responded, "He left it all." Yes, of course the dead man left it all—and so will we. *We all leave all of it* because the power of money is only operative between the womb and the tomb. Money belongs to the realm of the non-eternal, the temporary, the transient.

**Discuss:** How could you help a nonbeliever recognize that reality of eternity?

## 3. It can be a short step from our owning and controlling money to money owning and controlling us.

The thoughts, dreams, and plans of the fortunate but foolish farmer were dominated by money (v.17-19). The farmer thought he had all of these material possessions, but in reality, they had him. Money is not a neutral force. It has a power of its own, and this is why Jesus warned, "*Be on your guard against all covetousness*" (v.15). The farmer in the parable let go of the one thing he could keep—his soul—and he kept the one thing he should have let go—his wealth.

Dale Evans Rogers was a famous American actress, singer, and songwriter. She earned a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for her contributions to radio and a second star for her contributions to the television industry. Ranking in the Top 40 of Country Music Television's Greatest Women in Country Music in 2002, she was inducted into several Halls of Fame for her talents. This famous superstar made a statement about wealth and fame that provides a clearer perspective than the distorted view of the foolish farmer and deceived consumers of our day: "All my life I searched for a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, and I found it at the foot of the cross."

**Discuss:** What do you think Dale Evans Rogers meant when she contrasted the "pot of gold at the foot of the cross" with "a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow"?

**Discuss:** How would you counsel a new Christian to beware of the deceptiveness of riches?

### **For Further Study**

*Master Your Money* by Ron Blue

*The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn

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