

Rich Toward God

Storyteller #4

Tim Gill - May 3, 2015

...my cup overflows with blessings. **Psalm 23:5 (NLT)**

Why does God bless me with more?

- God blesses me with more to **enjoy life**. (Proverbs 10:16)
- God blesses me with more to **mature me**. (Luke 16:11)
- God blesses me with more to **help others**. (2 Corinthians 9:8)
- God blesses me with more to **advance His work**. (Acts 4:36-37)

Why is this rich man foolish? (From Luke 12)

1. Because he **disregards God in his financial plans**. (v.17-18)

He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' ¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain.'

2. Because he is **selfish with God's blessings**. (v.19)

And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

3. Because he **forgets his own mortality**. (v.20-21)

You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹ This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.

I become rich toward God...

1. When I **remember I am more than what I own**. (v.15, 23, 29-31)

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

- Life is not about what a man **has**, but what a man **is**.

Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes.

Luke 12:23 (NIV)

And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ **But seek his kingdom**, and these things will be given to you as well. **Luke 12:29-31 (NIV)**

2. When I **recognize God's ownership and my stewardship**. (v.20)

'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' **Luke 12:20 (NIV)**

...Everything under heaven is mine.

Job 41:11 (NLT)

3. When I **share God's blessing with others**. (v.17, 33a)

He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

Luke 12:17 (NIV)

Sell your possessions and give to the poor... **Luke 12:33a (NIV)**

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. **1 Timothy 6:17-18 (NIV)**

Don't hoard your goods; spread them around. Be a blessing to others. **Ecclesiastes 11:2 (MSG)**

4. When I **invest in the eternal**. (v.33b)

...Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

I tell you, use the riches of this world to help others. In that way, you will make friends for yourselves. Then when your riches are gone, you will be welcomed into your eternal home in heaven.

Luke 16:9 (NIRV)