

THE PARABOLIC TEACHING ABOUT CHRIST'S KINGDOM

Lesson 10: The Folly of Possessions and Riches: The Rich Fool

15-Point Chronological Discussion Outline & Worksheet • Dr. Dallas Willard Lecture Series (1983)

1. Life Does Not Consist in Possessions

[Audio ~00:00 – 03:45]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:13–15; 1 Timothy 6:6–8

Dallas Willard Insight: Jesus firmly refuses to mediate a family inheritance dispute, warning that a person's life is not defined by wealth.

Discussion Question: Why does Jesus refuse to settle financial disputes, warning us against defining life by material possessions?

My Notes & Answer:

2. The Seductive Deceitfulness of Covetousness

[Audio ~03:45 – 07:15]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:15; Mark 7:21–23

Dallas Willard Insight: Covetousness is an insatiable, idolatrous heart craving that falsely promises security and worth through wealth.

Discussion Question: How does covetousness subtly deceive us into seeking ultimate security and identity in worldly goods?

My Notes & Answer:

3. The Parable of the Rich Fool

[Audio ~07:15 – 10:30]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:16–17; Psalm 49:10–12

Dallas Willard Insight: A rich man produced an abundant harvest and faced the dilemma of having nowhere to store his surplus goods.

Discussion Question: What trap did the rich man fall into when blessed with an unexpected surplus harvest?

My Notes & Answer:

4. Tear Down Barns and Build Bigger

[Audio ~10:30 – 14:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:18; Ecclesiastes 2:4–11

Dallas Willard Insight: The rich man resolved to tear down existing barns and build larger ones, adopting a self-absorbed hoarding strategy.

Discussion Question: Why is hoarding surplus wealth for self-preservation a foolish strategy in God's eyes?

My Notes & Answer:

5. Talking to One's Own Soul

[Audio ~14:00 – 17:30]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:19; James 4:13–15

Dallas Willard Insight: The fool spoke to his soul: 'Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry,' assuming many years of safe self-indulgence.

Discussion Question: How does assuming we control our own future and longevity reveal deep spiritual folly?

My Notes & Answer:

6. 'You Fool! This Very Night...'

[Audio ~17:30 – 21:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:20; Job 27:8

Dallas Willard Insight: God confronted him: 'You fool! This night your soul is required of you.' Death exposes the illusion of material security.

Discussion Question: How does the reality of unexpected death shatter all confidence built on material wealth?

My Notes & Answer:

7. 'Whose Will These Things Be?'

[\[Audio ~21:00 – 24:30\]](#)

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:20; Psalm 39:6

Dallas Willard Insight: At death, all accumulated physical possessions pass to others; we possess nothing beyond our relationship with God.

Discussion Question: Why is accumulating wealth without eternal perspective a tragic waste of human life?

My Notes & Answer:

8. Laying Up Treasure for Oneself

[\[Audio ~24:30 – 28:00\]](#)

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:21; Matthew 6:19–21

Dallas Willard Insight: Storing up treasure exclusively for personal security leaves a person spiritually bankrupt before God.

Discussion Question: What is the spiritual condition of someone who hoards vast earthly wealth but remains poor toward God?

My Notes & Answer:

9. Being Rich Toward God

[\[Audio ~28:00 – 31:30\]](#)

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:21; 1 Timothy 6:17–19

Dallas Willard Insight: Being rich toward God means investing resources into divine character, human transformation, and generous service.

Discussion Question: What does it practically look like in daily choices to become 'rich toward God'?

My Notes & Answer:

10. Do Not Be Anxious About Life

[Audio ~31:30 – 35:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:22–26; Matthew 6:25–27

Dallas Willard Insight: Jesus commands freedom from anxiety over food and clothing, pointing out that life is far more than physical sustenance.

Discussion Question: Why does Jesus command us not to worry about physical food and clothing?

My Notes & Answer:

11. Consider the Ravens and Lilies

[Audio ~35:00 – 38:30]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:24–28; Psalm 147:9

Dallas Willard Insight: God feeds birds that neither sow nor reap and clothes lilies gloriously; He cares infinitely more for His children.

Discussion Question: How does observing God's lavish care for birds and flowers deliver us from financial anxiety?

My Notes & Answer:

12. Seeking the Kingdom First

[Audio ~38:30 – 42:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:29–31; Matthew 6:33

Dallas Willard Insight: Instead of chasing material security like the nations, disciples seek God's Kingdom, trusting Him to supply all needs.

Discussion Question: What promises does Jesus make when we make seeking His Kingdom our primary life focus?

My Notes & Answer:

13. 'Fear Not, Little Flock'

[Audio ~42:00 – 45:15]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:32; John 10:11–15

Dallas Willard Insight: Jesus reassures His little flock that it is the Father's good pleasure to freely give them the Kingdom.

Discussion Question: How does knowing the Father delights to give us His Kingdom eliminate fear and greed?

My Notes & Answer:

14. Bags That Wax Not Old

[Audio ~45:15 – 47:30]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:33–34; 1 Peter 1:4

Dallas Willard Insight: Selling surplus to give alms creates unfailing moneybags in heaven, where moth and rust cannot destroy.

Discussion Question: How does generous giving transfer temporary wealth into indestructible heavenly treasure?

My Notes & Answer:

15. Where Your Treasure Is, There Your Heart Is

[Audio ~47:30 – 50:00]

Scripture Focus: Luke 12:34; Colossians 3:1–2

Dallas Willard Insight: Our heart naturally follows our investments; placing our treasure in Kingdom work draws our inner life to God.

Discussion Question: How does directing our financial resources toward God's work anchor our heart in eternal life?

My Notes & Answer: