As we continue with our series of messages on “The Parables of Jesus”
I would like for you to please turn with me in your Bibles to the Gospel
of Luke, chapter twelve, and let’s read verses 13-21


P R A Y E R

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Introduction

In our English language, we have many names to describe a defect in
someone’s character.

For example..................

*We call someone who hords all their money to themselves
a TIGHTWAD or a CHEAPSCATE.

*We might call someone who can’t be trusted or is shady in their
business dealings A SNAKE IN THE GRASS.

*We might call someone who can’t control their temper A LOOSE CANON.

* And we might call someone who is always sticking their nose in
other people’s business A BUSYBODY.

It’s one thing to have one’s character flaws exposed by a fellowman
....................but it is a much more serious matter to have one’s
calendar flaws exposed by the ALL-KNOWING……ALL-SEEING GOD.

In tonight’s parable, we meet “The man GOD HIMSELF called a FOOL!”
Called A Fool.”
WHY DID GOD CALL THIS MAN A FOOL?

Well as we take a closer look at this parable we see a number of reasons why.

First of all, God called this man a fool because.................

I. **HE LEFT GOD OUT OF HIS LIFE**

1. We are going to go back and read verses 17-19 and as we do I want you to pay careful attention to all the **personal pronouns** this rich fool uses.

   17 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 all MY grain and MY goods.

   19 And I’LL say to MYSELF, “YOU have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”

2. Now if you happened to be keeping score, this man used 13 PERSONAL PRONOUNS in these three short verses.

3. I’LL do this.............I’LL do that........my grain.....my barns

   This man worshiped the UNHOLY TRINITY of ME......MYSELF and I.

4. Not ONE TIME did this man mention the NAME OF GOD!

   Not ONE TIME did he mention how BLESSED he was!
   Not ONE TIME did he express THANKSGIVING or GRATITUDE.

5. Here is a man who truly believed EVERYTHING HE HAD and EVERYTHING HE WAS.......was the result of his own human effort. He was the CENTER of his own UNIVERSE!

6. **PSALM 14: 1** The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”

   Folks, an atheist isn’t just the person who doesn’t believe in the existence of God.......an atheist is also the person who denies GOD a place in his or her
heart.

7. You and I know people like this. They have time for every pleasure.........every social activity.........every recreational activity.......every leisure activity......and every community activity........but they have NO PLACE for GOD in their lives.

8. The man in Jesus’ parable HAD LEFT GOD OUT OF HIS LIFE........and God Called That Man A Fool!

There was a second reason God called this man a FOOL and that was because..............

II. HE LEFT HIS FELLOW MAN OUT OF HIS LIFE

1. Let’s go back and read verses 16 - 19 again.

   16 And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop.

   17 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 build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

   19 And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.’

2. Now get the picture here. This man had been blessed with such a good yield on his crops he had more grain than he knew what to do with.

   *Did he think about sharing his surplus with the NEEDY WIDOWS in the community? NO!

   *Did he think about donating a portion of that surplus to the LOCAL ORPHANAGE? NO!

   *Did he think about sending a bunch of his surplus grain to PEOPLE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD who were starving to death? NO!
3. Notice again in verse 18 what he decided to do with all that surplus............

   “Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store ALL my grain and my goods.'

4. This man was so full of himself he determined to keep every last KERNEL of GRAIN for himself rather than helping out his fellow man.

5. Throughout the New Testament, we are told that one way to demonstrate the sincerity of our Christian faith is to share our material blessings with those who are in need.

   This is true of us as individuals........This is also true of us as a Church Family.

6. Because this man GAVE NO THOUGHT TO HIS FELLOWMAN, God called him A FOOL.

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He Left God Out of His Life
He Left His Fellow Man Out of His Life

But there was a third reason God called this man a FOOL and that was because...........

III. HE BELIEVED MATERIAL THINGS WOULD BRING LASTING HAPPINESS

   verse 19   And I'll say to myself, ``You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.

1. Remember Jesus’ stern warning regarding “material things” in Matthew 6: 19-21........

   19  Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.

   20  But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.
21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

-----MATTHEW 6: 19-21

2. Again in Matthew 16: 26, Jesus said, “What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his own soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

3. This Rich Fool thought he had EVERYTHING a man needs when the truth was he had NOTHING of lasting value.

......He had a SURPLUS OF GRAIN that would no doubt go to waste.

......He had NEW and BIGGER BARNs that would deteriorate over time.

......He had LAND that would one day belong to someone else.

HE THOUGHT HE HAD EVERYTHING HE NEEDED TO SATISFY HIS SOUL, BUT IN REALITY HE HAD NOTHING.

ILLUSTRATION

Several Christmases ago, Linda and I took our grandkids to see the Christmas flotilla on the waterfront in Washington. (NC)

I have to admit it was quite a beautiful site seeing all those MULTI-THOUSAND DOLLAR YACHTS sailing past us with their boats all decorated with Christmas lights.

As each YACHT would pass by the audience, Marvin Daugherty would announce the NAME of the YACHT and the NAME of the PROUD OWNERS of these LUXURIOUS BOATS.

One couldn’t help but think of how nice it would be to have enough “LOOSE CHANGE” to be able to afford something like that. The only boat Linda and I have is the little “paddle boat” sitting on the pond bank beside our house.

But as I watched the proud YACHT OWNERS waving at the crowd, I couldn’t help but think .....IF THESE PEOPLE HAVE A YACHT, BUT THEY DON’T HAVE GOD IN THEIR LIFE, THEN WHAT DO THEY REALLY HAVE?

4. Just like the RICH FOOL in Jesus’ parable, many people believe
material things can bring them lasting happiness.

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God Called This Man A Fool Because.......... 

*He Left God Out of His Life  
*He Left His Fellowman Out of His Life  
*He Believed Material Things Could Bring Him Lasting Happiness 

Now let’s consider a FOURTH reason God called him a fool.

IV. HE BELIEVED TOMORROW WAS A CERTAINTY 

19 And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” 

20 “But God said to him, “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 anyone who stores up thing for himself but is not rich toward God.” 

1. This Rich Fool had already figured out how the rest of his life was going to “play out.” 

   He believed he was going to live to be an old man, spending his remaining days on earth basking in all his wealth and luxury. 

   But there was one extremely important detail he had overlooked and that was HE WAS BANKING ON THE CERTAINTY OF TOMORROW. 

2. Is there anything wrong with planning for one’s future? NO! But the difference between the plans of a WISE MAN and plans
of a FOOL is that the fool plans as though TOMORROW is certain, while the WISE MAN plans as though today could be his last day.

PROVERBS 27: 1   Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

JAMES 4:13-15  Now listen you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If it is the LORD’S WILL, we will live and do this or that.”

4. The Rich Man in this parable believed TOMORROW WAS A CERTAINTY, and GOD called this man a “fool!”

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CONCLUSION

He Left God Out of His Life
He Left His Fellowman Out of His Life
He Believed Material Things Could Bring Him Lasting Happiness
And He Believed Tomorrow Was A Certainty

This Man LIVED FOR TODAY with NO THOUGHT FOR HIS ETERNITY!

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APPLICATION

This parable reminds us of the TRAGIC CONDITION of many people we know personally, some of them we may even be related to.

Think of your family members and friends who are making the same tragic mistakes this RICH FOOL made.

- They have LEFT GOD OUT OF THEIR LIVES.
- They BELIEVE MATERIAL THINGS will bring them lasting happiness.
- And in all likelihood THEY ARE LIVING THEIR LIVES AS THOUGH TOMORROW IS CERTAIN without giving a thought to their ETERNITY.
May our HEARTS go out to these people. May we dedicate ourselves to PRAYING for these people. May we allow God to use us to REACH these people.

I believe this PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL also reminds us of THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD in our own lives.

Think of it this way: If GOD called this man A RICH FOOL, He would call you and me RICH WISE MEN!

Do you know if GOD called this man A RICH FOOL....... ............HE would call you and me RICH WISE MEN!

*Oh you may not have much money, but because you’ve got GOD, you are a RICH WISE MAN!

*You may not have a lot of nice material things, but because you’ve got GOD, you are a RICH WISE MAN!

You see, it is better to be A RICH WISE MAN who has NOTHING but GOD........than to be A RICH FOOL who has EVERYTHING but GOD!