

The Richest Man

David Sproule

The richest man who ever lived gave a stern warning about riches. So, it was not a poor man making accusations against those who are rich. It was a warning from the Man who owns everything Himself—Jesus Christ. The Owner of all things said, “Take heed and beware of covetousness” (Luke 12:15). The original Greek has the word “all” in the text, so it is best translated, “Be on your guard against all covetousness” (ESV) or “against every form of greed” (NASB). Think about that word “all” or “every.” Is there more than one form of greed or covetousness? Jesus indicated that there is, and He warns all of us to beware of every form that covetousness can take in our lives. What a concept!

In this context in Luke 12, Jesus tells the Parable of the Rich Fool. Jesus does not teach that this man was a fool because he was rich. There is nothing inherently wrong or sinful with being rich—the Bible never hints that there is. However, what we learn about this man in Jesus’ parable is that he was rich toward himself, having laid up treasure for himself. That was (for him) the focus, the purpose, the intention of his riches. It is obvious that he suffered from the debilitating disease called “The Love of Money.”

The rich man was condemned because he did not use and focus his riches toward God and furthering the cause of the Lord. That sharp censure ought to grab our attention. Those who are rich, especially, need to examine whether they are rich toward self, toward family, toward the world, or rich toward God. Beware and be on guard against EVERY form of covetousness—which means, “Don’t be deceived into telling yourself that you’re ok!”

The reality is that God has made ALL of us rich! Think about that. ALL of us are rich IN God and BY God! I’m not talking about money! And I’m not talking about material possessions! I’m talking about every form of blessing we experience in this life—including the splendor of His creation, the relationships we enjoy, the abilities He has given to each of us, the influence that we have, etc., etc. We must be EVER on guard against EVERY form of covetousness that would make us lose sight of WHO blessed us with all of these things and TO WHOM we should be utilizing them on a daily basis! Friend, you are rich! The question is, are you rich (with these blessings) toward self or are you rich toward God?

The richest man who ever lived taught us much about the many, many riches that we have in this life. He owns the world and everything in it, including us. May we do everything we can to use what He has given to us (in every form of our riches) to be rich toward God!



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840

(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, Evangelist- (607) 280-1732

Paul Cowles, Evangelist- (607) 592-8091

March 27, 2022

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

All the churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

Today's Sermon: REMEMBER

Paul will be preaching this morning.

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:1-9

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org

Find us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/valleycitiescoc

Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Sunday Morning Bible Class:** Paul will be continuing his lessons on the **Psalms** and stopping to sing a song from our songbook when appropriate. Last week we did Psalm 105.
- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** March 30th, on Zoom, 6:30pm- Arthur will be continuing the study of Hebrews starting with Chapter 2, verse 10.
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** April 24th.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class on Tuesday, March 29th, on Zoom.** We will meet at 10am. We will study the words of the Apostle Peter, using the study book **Living Stones by Casandra Martin. Lesson 7, Day 3.**
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing- May 29th, here at Valley Cities.**



MAGI BOX NEEDS:

Keep checking the list in the front foyer on the bulletin board. **FIVE WEEKS TO GO**

Last week we collected \$580 to send to the churches in Ukraine for help with refugees and to keep people safe.

PRAYERS

- **Pray for the people of Ukraine** and the people of neighboring countries who are taking in refugees from the violence.
- **Please continue to pray for Arthur, although it seems that he had very promising test results.** He will be visiting with the surgeon on Wednesday the 30th by phone.
- **Ruthie is sick with a cold today.**
- **Please pray for Jackie.** She has recently had a second skin cancer removed and sent for biopsy to check whether she needs more removed.
- **Dan Myer** had a PT scan of the mass in his lung on Friday and will be having a phone call with his doctor this week to discuss results.
- Pray for:
 - **Linnett Short** (lung cancer, tumor on liver)
 - **Deb Barnhardt** (lung cancer)
 - **Pat Guthrie** (lung cancer, chemo)
 - **Jerry Lowe** (heart problems, needs to find a church)
 - **Gail Westerhold** (problems with remaining kidney)
 - **Zachary Cowles** (deployment with the Army)
 - **Steve Noble** (needs lung transplant)
 - **Arthur's brother Chris** in England (Alzheimer's)
 - **Darlene's friend Connie** (stage 4 lung cancer)
 - **Jim Sexton** (esophageal cancer)

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.