**Bible/College Class Notes –**

***Studies in The New Testament* – Lesson 72**

**We See Gospel Appeals in the Saviour’s Parables.This week** – We start a new series of lessons based on some Parables of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**NOTES**

**The Rich Fool said, *“I will say to my soul, Soul … take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.”* But God said unto him, *“Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee” Luke 12 v19,20. VA***

**The Rich Fool.**

**Why Did the Lord Jesus Teach using Parables?**

**A Parable in the Bible** is a story of earthly experiences from which the Lord draws spiritual lessons. **VA**

An earthly story with a Heavenly meaning.

**Why Did the Lord Jesus Teach this Parable? VA**

***The Lord warns us of eternal disaster if we live only for ourselves and earthly pleasure.***

**God, our Creator,**

made us to glorify Him and to enjoy Him forever.

Without the Lord we live in direct opposition

to all that He intended for us.

**Does the Rich Man’s Outlook on Life Mirror Our Outlook?**

**We do not have to be rich to be like him?**

**He asked himself, “What shall I do?”**

**He answered himself, “This is what I will do.”**

**2**

**He did as he wanted** **VA1**

with no reference to God His Creator’s will for his life.

He was not interested in God’s Will. **VA1b**

**This shows the sins of Pride and Selfishness.**

**This is the way of a proud, self-confident, world.**

***Do we determine our lives and decisions by ourselves,***

***or do we look for help from our Creator God?***

**He was in Charge of His Life. VA2**

**He focused on his earthly life alone,**

**Totally ignoring his immortal soul. VA2b**

**No thought for eternity.**

**He was very rich and owned lots of property. VA3**

God had blessed him with much success as a farmer, but he did not thank God, the real owner. **VA3b**

**He planned for years to come. VA4**

Presuming and assuming that he had a long life ahead of him.

This man’s heart was ruled

by selfishness and covetousness.

**He ignored God - His Sovereign, Powerful Plan VA4b**

All he thought of was

to pull down his barns and build them bigger.

He took his satisfaction from,

“***much goods laid up for many years”.***

**He reduced life to pleasure and fun,** **VA5**

saying ***‘Take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry’,***

**He was selfish, greedy, and lazy, VA5b**

**Note - I is the middle letter of SIN VA**

**He was forgetting thatGod’s Plan was different.VA**

***“this night thy soul shall be required of thee”***

when he would enter **eternity**

to meet The Lord God as his Righteous Judge.

**3**

**We all know that one day**

**we will die and enter eternity.**

**This will happen to everyone unless the Lord returns at the Last Day – The Day of Judgement.**

**Those alive then will meet Him in the air**

**and be Judged with everyone else.**

**Take note that we cannot assume a long life**

**as this man did.**

**He thought he had many years ahead of Him.**

**Our time on earth is the hands of the Sovereign God.**

**We could die before our parents or older siblings.**

**(this is not to scare you but is a possibility.)**

**We must ask, VA**

***Is this short, brief life more important to us than our meeting with God at death and where we are to spend eternity?***

He saw his possessions as his by right

**(*“My barns, My grain, My goods”***)

and did not recognise that everything he had

was provided by God’s kindness.

**He stole God’s blessings**

- refusing to thank or acknowledge his debt to God.

**Are we living our life like he did,**

**giving no thanks to God for all He has given us.**

**Our Life, Our Eternal Soul, Our family, homes, food, clothes, friends, education, etc.**

***Do we remember and give thanks to the One Who has given us everything? Or do we take it for ourselves and enjoy it without gratitude to God Who provides all things?***

**4**

**Disaster Struck That Very Night – God Took His Soul.**

At death all worldly possessions are left behind, they have no eternal or spiritual value.

He was spiritually bankrupt,

having nothing to cause God to accept him into Heaven.

**We cannot use money or possessions as credit with God.**

**Although this man was very rich,**

**He was a poor failure.**

**We must see ourselves as poor, needy, sinners.**

**We need the Righteousness of Christ credited to our ‘account’. This wipes out our debt of sin.**

**This is made possible when we repent and believe that the Saviour died for us on the cross, taking the punishment for our sin.**

**The Lord told this parable so that we may learn from this man’s example and avoid being called a ‘Fool’ by God.**

God calls those who ignore Him, **fools** - those who set their hearts to seek after this world’s goods and spend their energy in its’ sinful pleasures.

***“The fool hath said in his heart, ‘*There is *no God.’***

***Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity:***

**there is *none that doeth good.” Psalm 53v1. VA***

**What is your view of God?**

 Is He real? Is He interested in you?

 Do you see Him as Sovereign and Lord of all?

**5**

***How foolish it would be to say in our hearts, “There is no God.”***

**We Need to Be Rich Towards God By Trusting In The Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour and Lord.**

**When we repent of our sin,**

believing that Christ died for us on Calvary

to take the guilt of our sin away,

replacing it by His righteousness,

**then** we are rich towards God.

**‘Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling.’**

**Wise Solomon wrote, *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel* (listens to and obeys God’s word) *is wise.” Proverbs 12v15.* VA**

**Important Thought for us Today:**

**Have You Treasure in Heaven?**

Treasure causes us to think of something very precious and of tremendous value.

**‘Treasure in Heaven’** speaks to us of God’s eternal blessings and reward - that which is lasting and very worth investing in.

**In contrast**

**‘Treasures of Earth - This Life’,**

are short-lived, temporary - bringing no eternal blessing.

**Time is wasted** in foolishly seeking trying to satisfy the deep need our soul: -

through gaining wealth, possessions, careers,

and chasing worldly pleasure

– hoping that our good works will please God.

**It is impossible for us to be saved by our good works.**

So, seek for yourself Heaven’s eternal, lasting treasure.

**6**

What could be more precious than

having the joy of knowing sins forgiven,

peace with God, and a place in Heaven?

**Knowing Christ as our personal Saviour,**

 and serving Him, brings blessing to our soul.

The enjoyment of God’s love, mercy and kindness

in saving us, and His leading, guiding,

and supporting us as we live in this sin-sick world.

**This is treasure indeed!**

**Do you posses it?**