

## Jesus' Parables in Chronological Order

### Parable #7 — Luke 12:15-21 — The Rich Fool

<sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

<sup>16</sup> And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

<sup>18</sup> “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. <sup>19</sup> 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.’”

<sup>20</sup> “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?’

<sup>21</sup> “This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

### Parable #8 — Luke 12:35-40 — Watchfulness

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup> like men waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. <sup>37</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. I tell you the truth, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. <sup>38</sup> It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the second or third watch of the night. <sup>39</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

Parable #7 — Luke 12:15-21 — The Rich Fool

1. What signs of greed can show up in a person's life?
2. With what parts of the parable can you identify? What parts of the parable make you uncomfortable? (12:16-20)
3. In Ecclesiastes 8:15, Solomon says, "So I commended pleasure, for there is nothing good for a man under the sun except to eat and to drink and to be merry, and this will stand by him in his toils throughout the days of his life which God has given him under the sun." Is the Bible giving us conflicting advice?
4. Does this parable say you should not plan for retirement or that you should not save money or valuables?
5. Why is it difficult for us to accept the fact that our life and things are temporary? What step can you take this week to become less dependent upon your possessions?

Parable #8 — Luke 12:35-40 — Watchfulness

1. What is it like to wait for someone without knowing when he or she is coming? (Think hours, days, weeks, months.)
2. How long did Jesus say the servants should be willing to wait for their master? (12:38) How does this translate to you today?
3. For what are we to be watchful? What does watchfulness involve? Why is watchfulness not a passive activity?
4. What has God given us? What has he given you? How much have we, individually and collectively, been entrusted with?
5. What responsibilities or duties might God demand of you? What can you do for God in your area of responsibility?