

IS THAT ALL THERE IS?

“Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink and be merry.” (Luke 12:16-19).

WE ARE DOING WELL

Don't many of us feel like this man? How many things we accumulate in the course of our life! We own so much with which we can appease and comfort our soul. In a time of incomparable material well-being we can afford so much: a car, the newest smartphone, vacation. Some treat themselves to the most exquisite cuisine, travel to the most exotic countries of the world, clothe themselves in the latest fashion and furnish their homes tastefully and comfortably. Jobs with high income are no more a rarity and even with a modest income one can usually live quite well. Ninety-five percent of the world could envy our wealth. Our land has “yielded plentifully”. But that's not all. Culturally and socially we have many opportunities to entertain ourselves. With music, films, theatre, sports, hobbies and parties it's no problem to escape from

boredom. In short: We are provided for completely. We have what we need. We're doing well and we're enjoying life.

“YOU FOOL!”

However, the story of the bible quoted at the beginning doesn't end here. God says to that rich man who had all reason to lean back and enjoy his goods: **“Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?”** And Jesus explained the meaning of this parable: **“So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”** (Luke 12:20-21).

Jesus tries to make clear that man's soul needs something more than all the wealth and pleasure of this world. Of course it's nice to have plenty. But does the soul really have rest and peace with God? Is our life based on the One who has given it to us, on the Creator, who has made everything, including all the richness available for our pleasure? Or do we base our life on the transient trends of our time or on our own personal philosophies? Do we trust in our youth and health, or in our experience in life and our acquired skills? Are we perhaps driven by desires, moods and inclinations, or by work, appreciation and success? None of all this will remain forever! Everything is transitory. Tomorrow, money can become worthless, people can disappoint you and relationships can break. Even one's strength and health are not certain. The decisive question is: What will remain? Are we rich in God? How can we do today that which will prevail, and reap what permanently fills and satisfies our soul?

GOD KNOWS WHAT WE REALLY NEED

God knows our real inner need. He doesn't look on that which is in front of our eyes. God knows our heart and knows what we really need. He loves us and wants to change our condition. He is also the only One who is able to do this and He has already done everything necessary to make man truly rich. He sent His Son into the world, not for a nice Christmas story, but to save the life of man from futility! Jesus died on the cross for our sins, to reconcile us with God. Have you been living without God so far – or even against Him? Jesus came to justify the ungodly. He who believes in Jesus Christ is justified before God. God no longer ascribes to him the sin with which he has burdened himself. The way is open for an unalloyed fellowship with God. It is made possible by believing in Jesus Christ.

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ...” (Romans 5:1). Believe in Him! Take Jesus into your life! In Him lies the fullness of God made ready for you! He gives you His life – a new, eternal and unshakeable life. That's what our soul needs, that's what truly makes us rich.

I don't know anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour and then regretted this step. Rather, one regrets having lived without him for so many years. Countless people can testify that Jesus

filled their life and made it purposeful. The soul is too precious to be filled only with transient and trivial things. We should never degrade it.

LIBERATED, SAVED & BESTOWED

There is always the possibility, even now, to be set free and become saved from vanity, guilt and the judgement of God, and to become an heir to God's full richness and to His eternal life.

"For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Believe in the Lord Jesus and call with full confidence on his name! His redemption is immediate! Say: "Lord Jesus! Save me! Lord Jesus, forgive my sins! Lord Jesus, I accept you as my Lord and Saviour. Amen."

He who prays like this in faith, is saved. He who receives Jesus, becomes a child of God¹, **"He is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all have become new"** (2. Corinthians 5:17). **"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him"** (Romans 10:12).

It doesn't have to be a well worded prayer; just call on His name: "Lord Jesus, Lord Jesus". Call on Him as often as you need Him! **"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him"** (Psalm 145:18). In this way, too, we can experience Him and see how rich He is for us: He is rich in forgiveness², rich in everlasting, amazing

virtues like love, justice, patience, joy and peace. He is full of life, full of light, full of truth. Already today He will overwhelm your soul with eternal goods, so that every transient pleasure will appear pale and dull.

¹ John 1:12: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."

² Isaiah 55:7: "Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."



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