

The Rich Fool

Read Luke 12.15-21

15. What made this man a fool?

16. In what ways do we today make plans for our future material well-being and security?

17. How can we ensure that we are “rich toward God” and that “if riches increase” we do not set our heart on them (Ps 62.10)?

Pray

Read 1 Timothy 6.6-11 and use these verses as spur to prayer.

Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife. (Prov 17.1)

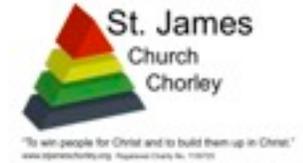
- Pray for contentment and against the temptations of a strongly materialistic culture.
- For those coping with debt and for our CAP Money team.

Pray for our newly elected government (assuming we have one by the time you do this study).

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May 2015

Get Wisdom

Week 3



Better a little...

Read Proverbs 15.16-17

1. What is your first reaction when you read a passage like this? Do you see the wisdom in it or do you think it sounds pious but not very true to life and experience?

2. Jesus said “You cannot serve God and mammon” (Mtt 6.24). Mammon is an Aramaic word meaning wealth or possessions (translated “money” in some Bibles). What do you think it means to serve mammon and why does it prevent us from serving God?

Unjust Gain

3. Would you say that coveting is more of a problem for the “haves” or the “have nots”?

Read 1 Kings 21.1-6

(If you have time in preparation read the whole chapter.)

4. Ahab’s initial offer to Naboth seems fair but how does his response to the latter’s refusal show what was going on inside?

5. Why do you think someone like Ahab, who was a wealthy King, could covet a piece of land so strongly?

Queen Jezebel's solution was simple and true to character, she had Naboth unjustly accused of trumped up offences and executed.

Read 1 Kings 21.17-19

6. On the face of it Jezebel was responsible for Naboth's death, not Ahab. But what had Ahab failed to do because of his greed?

7. How does this illustrate the first part of Proverbs 15.27?

As it was Ahab repented and was spared some of the trouble promised.

The deception of wealth

Solomon, who also wrote Ecclesiastes, was one of the wealthiest men of his day.

Read Ecclesiastes 5.10-16

8. A 2011 report in the Chinese "Economic Times" claimed that nearly a quarter of death amongst the wealthy were by suicide. One Chinese billionaire is reported as saying "many wealthy people have the same complaint: That their money fails to bring them contentment."

How does this compare to what Solomon wrote in v10-11?

9. Is this what most people really believe? If not why is the desire for wealth so pervasive in our society?

10. Do you think you would be more contented or happier if you had more money or possessions?

11. When was the last time you bought something you probably didn't need because of persuasive advertising?

12. Pick out the three problems with wealth that Solomon describes in the following verses in Ecclesiastes 5.

v12

v13-14

v15-16

13. Could you echo Agur's sentiment in Proverbs 30.8-9?

14. What is in your mind when in the Lord's Prayer you say "give us this day our daily bread"?