

## Lesson 22: Teaching on Wealth

Objective: To know that it is more important to be rich in good deeds than to be rich in goods.

Background: Jesus had much to say about the proper use of wealth (money). He teaches that wealth belongs to God and the Christian must be honest and faithful in our use of God's wealth *entrusted to us*. We must use our money wisely, not selfishly, and avoid being enslaved by the desire for it.

Instruction: Listen carefully to what Jesus is speaking to you.

### Let's Think:

One day Jesus refused to arbitrate a property dispute between two brothers. Obviously, He perceived that the dispute stemmed from covetousness.

1. What is covetousness? Why did Jesus warn against it? What reasons did He give and what does it mean? (Lk 12:15).

Jesus proceeds to give the parable of "The Rich Fool." (Lk. 12:16-21).

2. How do you describe the rich man as he looks ahead? (Lk 12:19) How did he plan to spend his wealth? For whom? (Note "I", "my", "me" in his soliloquy).
3. Why did God call him a "fool"? Was he a fool because he was rich or because he made provision for his future? Explain. (Read carefully Lk 12: 20, 21).

Sometime later Jesus also told the parable of "The Rich Man and Lazarus." (Lk 16:19-31).

4. How did the rich man spend his wealth? Had he ever noticed the existence of Lazarus? When and how did the lots of these two men reverse? (Lk 16:19-23).
5. What do you think the rich man would say to his five living brothers if it were possible? Would his five brothers *be converted by a miracle* as he believed? Why or why not? How would you describe their philosophy of life? Have they ever taken God's Word (Moses and the Prophets) seriously?
6. Can we equate the possession of goods with a good life? Why or why not? Does it matter how we spend our money and life (time)? Why or why not? In what sense are good deeds an investment? Discuss.
7. What one thing do you learn through this study? Would it in any way affect your life, your life-style? Or your checkbook? Is covetousness a problem today? Is God speaking something to you?

Let's Remember: And Jesus said to them, "Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (Luke 12: 15) For the love of money is the root of all evil. ..." (I Timothy 6:10).