

NOTES



PRAYER

"Dear Heavenly Father, we gather together to seek Your wisdom and guidance concerning our finances. We invite You to take Your rightful place as Lord over our finances. Help us to honor You with our resources, to manage them wisely, and to be generous stewards of what You have entrusted to us. May our hearts be aligned with Your will as we learn and grow together. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

OPENING QUESTION (OPTIONAL)

"If you had an unlimited budget for one day, what ridiculous or extravagant thing would you spend it on, and why?"



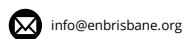
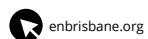
EVERY NATION
BRISBANE

© 2023 by EVERY NATION BRISBANE®

All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to photocopy this material is granted for local church use. This is not for sale.



WORD

"13 Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' 14 But he said to him, 'Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?' 15 And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.' 16 And he told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, "What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?" 18 And he said, "I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." 20 But God said to him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.'"

[Luke 12:13-21 \(ESV\)](#)

In Luke 12:13-21, Jesus warns against greed and the accumulation of earthly wealth. The parable of the rich fool illustrates the folly of placing our trust and security in material possessions rather than in God. The rich man, who hoarded his abundant crops, believed he could secure his future by building larger barns to store his wealth. However, God calls him a fool, as his life was demanded of him that very night, leaving his wealth behind.

Robert Morris, in his book "The Blessed Life," emphasizes that true wealth is not measured by what we accumulate but by what we give. Morris argues that generosity reflects the heart of God and positions us to receive His blessings. He explains that the purpose of financial blessings is to bless others and further God's Kingdom, not to indulge in selfish desires.

In urban Australia, where consumerism and the pursuit of wealth are prevalent, this message is particularly relevant. Data shows that high levels of debt and financial stress are common, highlighting the need to shift our focus from accumulating wealth to living generously. By aligning our financial practices with God's principles, we can experience freedom and joy in giving, rather than the emptiness that comes from greed and materialism.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. How does the parable of the rich fool challenge your views on wealth and security? In what ways might greed manifest in our lives without us realizing it?
2. Can you share a time when you felt tempted to prioritize material possessions over more meaningful pursuits? How did you handle that situation?
3. What are some practical ways we can develop a culture of generosity in our households and communities? How can we teach our children the value of giving?
4. How can we ensure that our financial decisions reflect our faith and trust in God? What steps can we take to be more intentional about using our resources for His Kingdom?
5. What does it mean to be "rich toward God"? How can we apply this concept to our daily lives and financial practices?

Prayer to Receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour:

"Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that I need You in my life. I believe that You died for my sins and rose again to give me new life. I invite You to be my Lord and Saviour. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, guide me, and lead me as I leave my old life behind. Help me to give my life and my finances for Your Kingdom and Your glory. Teach me to be generous, to trust in Your provision, and to use my resources to bless others. In Your mighty name, I pray. Amen."

Closing

Encourage the group to continue reflecting on how they can honour God with their finances and to take practical steps towards living a generous and faith-filled life. Remind them of the importance of aligning their financial practices with God's principles and being a blessing to others.