

# WALKING WITH JESUS 3: RICH TOWARD GOD

Luke 12:13–21

DCC // August 3, 2025

**Main Idea:** *Walking with Jesus means holding stuff loosely and treasuring God deeply.*

## 1. Introduction: A Wake-Up Call from Jesus

- We often chase after the wrong things—promotions, possessions, prestige.
- This story meets us in the middle of that chase and asks: *What really matters?*

## 2. Verses 13–15: The Interrupter and the Warning

- A man interrupts Jesus asking for help with an inheritance.
- Jesus refuses to play judge and issues a caution instead: “Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.”
- *Key Teaching: Life is not measured by how much we own.*

## 3. Verses 16–20: The Parable of the Rich Fool

- A wealthy man faces a crisis of abundance.
- He builds bigger barns, plans to relax, but dies that night.
- Jesus labels him a “fool”—echoing Psalm 14:1.
- *Key Insight:* The man’s mistake wasn’t wealth, but self-absorption and godless security.
- *Echoes of the Prodigal Son:*
  - Both parables start with inheritance.
  - One faces scarcity, the other abundance.
  - One returns to the Father, the other relies on self.

## 4. Verse 21: The Point

“So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

- The issue is not *having* things but *how* we view and use them.
- Jesus contrasts two types of wealth:
  - Storing up for self.
  - Being rich toward God.

## Main Lesson for the Road of Discipleship

*Walking With Jesus Means Holding Stuff Loosely and Treasuring God Deeply.*

## 5. Kingdom Vision vs. Earthly Anxiety

- Possessions aren’t evil, but they make a terrible savior.

- Thomas Long: This story reorients not just behavior—but **vision**.
- N.T. Wright: The Western world runs on **anxiety**, but Jesus invites us into **trust**.

## 6. Illustration: The Overloaded Hiker

- A comically overpacked hiker slows down under the weight of things.
- Likewise, life becomes burdensome when we carry too much.

## 7. Application: A Heart Check

Use these questions to evaluate your relationship with wealth and security:

- Where do I find security—my bank account or my Savior?
- Do I use stuff to bless others or to build bigger barns?
- Am I more excited to get... or to give?
- Does contentment guide my life—or comparison?

### Action Steps This Week:

- *Practice Generosity*: Give something meaningful away.
- *Simplify*: Let go of clutter—physical or emotional.
- *Pray*: “Father, thank You for today’s bread. Teach me to trust and give.”

## 8. Conclusion

- Jesus isn’t against wealth—He’s against wasted lives.
- The rich fool missed the point: stuff won’t save you.
- **Discipleship means trusting God with our future, not hoarding for ourselves.**

“Kingdom vision doesn’t ask, ‘What can I keep?’ It asks, ‘What can I give?’”