

Telling someone, in a polite way, that he is a fool

Bible passage

Luke 12: 13-21 *Parable of the Rich Fool*

15 Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has.'

Tension: (vv. 16-17) The rich man's harvest is too large for his barn.

Relief of Tension: (vv. 18-19) He builds bigger barns.

Result: (vv. 20-21) God thinks he is a fool. (*NIrV*)

Devotion

I once asked a friend of mine what he would like his life to look like in 10 year's time. His answer was short and sweet: "I want to be retired and on every golf course in the world." This section in Luke also describes dreams of eating, drinking and living the good life.

This successful man in Jesus' parable enlarged his barns and pursued his dreams. This was very noble, yet God considered him a fool. Why? There are three distinct reasons why God called him a fool: He was selfish, as he constantly referred to "my" and "I." He thought he had control of his life, but when God demanded his life (v. 20), he discovered that he merely had control over his belongings. He wanted to organize his own life—but without God. The words in verse 18 ("This is what I'll do") and those in verse 19 ("I'll say to myself") are proof of this.

It is not wrong to have goals; God just wants us to have the right attitude and not be greedy. Life is not made up of how much a person has (v. 15), but rather, how much are you willing to share.

Prayer

Lord, help me to have the correct attitude toward money and wealth.

Today's Quote

Complete possession is proved only by giving. All you are unable to give possesses you.

— Andre Gide

greed