

## A TIME OF ACCOUNTABILITY

### Luke 12:13-21

**Introduction:** Something that should get one's attention and cause some deep concern is to realize that one day every person will stand before God and give an account of his/her life. It makes no difference the circumstances that one is surrounded by or the influences that he/she must live with, every single human being will one day stand before God in a time of accountability.

Jesus spoke about a man who never gave any thought to the truth that he was going to stand before God and give an account of his life and it was going to happen that very night.

### I. WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR PRIORITIES (vv 13-15)

A man came to Jesus and Jesus quickly discerned the real priority of the man's life. Jesus saw through the pretense and in response Jesus pointed out that people are accountable for the priorities of their life and that they must CHOOSE WITH CARE that to which they give allegiance.

1. Our personal interests reveal our real life's priorities. (v13)
  - We spend and invest heavily in the things we care the most about.
    - Think about where most of your money went last year.
  - The attention we give things places our interest and value on them.
    - What do you spend most of your time and attention doing or on?
2. Our life's priorities usually lie outside God's will. (v14)
  - Personal harm could come to us if all our heart's desires were granted.
  - God always has something better in mind for us than what we think is more important.
3. Our life's priorities can be very deceiving. (v15)
  - Jesus called this man's priority as "covetousness." This man had deceived himself into believing that he was really wanting the right thing when in fact he was really wanting that which belonged to someone else.
  - Too often we, too, deceive ourselves by wanting something too much even if it seems right.

### II. WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR BLESSINGS (vv 16-19)

In order to help this man rise above his spirit of covetousness, Jesus tells him a parable that reveals how every person is accountable for all the blessings in life, great or small.

1. Blessings in life come from God. (v16b)
  - This man was not a bad man, he just never gave any thought about anybody except himself, not even about God.
  - God tries to speak to us through the blessings He gives but like this man, we seldom ever hear what God has to say, so God has to speak in terms of trouble to get our attention.
2. Blessings are often misinterpreted. (vv17-18)
  - This man never understood or thought about why he was rich and had plenty.

- We may think that our success (if we are successful) is the result of our own abilities.
  - We may think that our blessings are the results of our own actions and merit.
3. Blessings can be misappropriated. (*v19*)
    - This man misinterpreted why he was wealthy but also planned to misuse what God had blessed him with.
    - Ever give any thought that what you have just might have come from God and not you?
    - You could be misappropriating what God has blessed you with by ignoring your duty of stewardship and acting as if you owed God nothing.
    - Life's blessings can be misappropriated by giving Jesus "part time" and the attitude "if nobody else will do it, then I guess I'll have to..."

### **III. WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE FOR OUR DECISIONS (*vv20-21*)**

The rich man had the right and freedom to make his own life's decisions, but he was also **ACCOUNTABLE** for those decisions.

1. Sometimes we make decisions that make a fool of us. (*v20a*)
  - A blind obsession for things can cause us to act foolish.
  - We can lose respect from those around us because of our foolish actions and decisions.
2. Sooner or later we will have to answer for the decisions we make. (*v20*)
  - This man put off repeatedly giving any thought about having to answer for his decisions.
  - Know for a fact that whenever the time comes we will be dealt with justly and the verdict will be determined by our past decisions.
3. Sadly, many will not be ready to answer for their life's decisions and little if any preparation has been made.
  - The rich man had been busy living and planning things to make his life better, but no thought was ever given to the life to come after his death.
  - Not everyone gets to live long enough to enjoy what they spent their lifetime accumulating.
  - The fact is that temporal preparation will have no benefit for eternity. (*v21*)

### **CONCLUSION:**

1. Most people don't think about or give much thought to the fact that one day they will stand before God and give an account of their life of decisions and actions.
2. Most people spend their lives trying to accumulate things that they think will make life better down here and never think about what will make their life after death better.
3. Now is the time to prepare to stand before God for when you are standing before God, there is no more time left to get ready.