

YOUR BIBLICAL TWIN

Luke 12:16-21

Introduction: Every see somebody who looked like somebody you knew from somewhere else? Have you ever been mistaken by someone who thought you were somebody they knew? It happens all the time. Sometimes people "act" like others, sometimes people actually "look" like others, then sometimes some people talk like others, and so on. It has been said that everybody has a "twin." Have you ever studied the Bible and discovered someone who reminded you of somebody you knew, even yourself? Perhaps you may have tried to run away from God like Jonah. Or maybe you know somebody who reminds you of Peter, who was always talking before thinking, then there was Mark who started out well, but dropped out. Then there was David. A good man, but he messed up a lot.

"...For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope..." Romans 15:4

We are always identifying with others whom we admire or whom we hope we never become like. Jesus warns against the danger of being a twin to the rich, young fool of our scripture. What was so bad about this young man that we should avoid?

I. SOME POSITIVE TRAITS OF THE YOUNG MAN

1. He was not dishonest, vulgar or untruthful.
2. He was not prejudiced, cynical, or jealous.
3. He did not consider himself a fool and he appeared to be rather a capable and confident type of a person.
4. He owned property.
5. He was a hard worker.
6. In all probability he was a wise and clever planner.
7. Being wise, he used the best agricultural methods know in his day.
8. This young man was a successful farmer and business man.
9. He was no doubt looked up to and admired by some.
10. So far everything about this rich, young man is admirable and any of us would be happy to be a twin to him.

II. WHAT WAS SO WRONG WITH THIS YOUNG MAN?

"...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God..." Matthew 4:4

1. This young man lived for the idea that he could satisfy his soul with "things."
"...Soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry..." Luke 12:19
 - People today look upon life's deepest needs as being physical, material, just as this young man did in his time.
 - Wealth, pleasure, education, fun, doo-dads, gadgets, fame, power and position are thought to meet the deepest needs of one's life today.
 - God's Word reminds us that things, by themselves, cannot satisfy the deepest needs and longings of the soul, for only God can satisfy the needs of the soul.
 - Where does a hungry or thirsty person rush off to satisfy his/her need? To a pile of sawdust? To the ocean filled with salt water?
 - To try to satisfy the deep hunger of the heart with material things is no more foolish than the person just described trying to satisfy hunger and thirst with foolish things.

2. The more "things" are accumulated, the more one's selfishness is increased and the more is wanted.
 - This foolish young man of the text was not thinking of God nor of anybody who might be needing help.
 - This rich, young man was totally wrapped up in himself.
 - Do you know anybody like this young man? A twin? Are YOU his twin?

3. The rich young man had forgotten about God and God's people.
 - It is God who gives all the good things in life and they are to be used as God wants them to be.
 - This young man never gave a thought to God being behind the things he had nor did he ever think about sharing what he had.
 - Are you like this young man or have you realized that everything you have has been given to you by God and that you are to share with others?

4. This young man was living for the present time only, never giving any thought to eternity.
 - Sadly, too many today have this same attitude - "Today is all that counts, live for today and let tomorrow take care of itself..." Remember the old saying about "putting all one's eggs in one basket...?"
 - Are you a twin to this rich young foolish man - living only for today and not giving any thought to when your life here is over and you stand before God?

5. To this young man life was all about "getting" instead of sharing and giving.
 - Who has not dreamed of having a "zillion" dollars in the bank and being able to have what was wanted and go and do what one wanted to do?
 - Our thoughts are like this young man's thoughts were, to have, to get, to own, to go, to do, to be.
 - The whole point of Jesus in this is to warn everyone about the false way of life, to find the real purpose in life. Jesus is warning that happiness is not always determined by having things.

6. The god of this young man was NOT Elohim, NOT Jehovah, NOT Almighty God of Israel, but was money, position and things.
 - Only when God is God in a person's life will all material and spiritual needs be satisfied.

III. FOR THIS MAN AND ANY OF HIS "TWINS" THERE IS A DREADFUL END

1. *"...Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee..." Luke 12:20*
 - Death almost always comes suddenly, whether young or old and at it's longest, life is but brief.
 - Only when a person is prepared for death is he/she really prepared to live.
 - This rich young man based all of his life upon living and having and forgot that one day he was actually going to die. How many today have this same attitude?

2. *"...Then whose shall those things be, which thou has provided...?" Luke 12:20*
 - One thing is certain, nothing will be taken with you at death. Nothing! No matter the wealth and possessions, reputation, death leaves everything behind.
 - The only thing taken with us at death is spiritual treasures from spiritual investments made in the lives of other people with what God has given to us to be shared.
 - Only the soul will go through death and come out in eternity. EVERYTHING else is left behind.

CONCLUSION:

1. So, does this rich, young man sound like you in some respects? Does he sound like anybody you know, if so, you might warn that person of what is ahead.
2. You do have a biblical twin, hopefully it is someone who turned out to be what God wanted.
3. Everyone needs to get closer to the Lord Jesus and do more with his/her life with what God has given and is still giving, sharing with others as God sees fit.
4. Invest your time, talents, testimony and all you are and have in that which is eternal.
5. Remember, you will stand before the Lord and give an account of what you have done with your life with what God has blessed you with. Where is your interest? What do you spend your time doing? What do you value the most? Are you ready to go stand before your Lord today?