

Short Stories that Speak Volumes for Our Lives



Real Wealth

Jesus told this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop . . . he said, . . . 'I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God" (Luke 12:16-21).

"I need money!"

"How much money do you need?"

"Lots! Start with *one* and keep adding zeros till I say, 'Stop.'"

Did you ever have a conversation like this? At times we dream about being very wealthy. What would we do? Quit our jobs? Buy a new car? Travel?

While it is fun to dream, the reality is that we are richer than most people in the world. Yet we may not feel rich, even though we have almost everything for maintaining a fairly comfortable lifestyle. So why don't we feel rich?

The main reason is because there's something wrong with all of us. We have a sinful nature. It likes to twist things around in our minds, so we constantly want more. And when we get more, our sinful nature still isn't satisfied.

Jesus illustrates this in a story about a farmer who had a

bumper crop one year. Instead of giving away the surplus to feed the hungry or to proclaim how generous God had been with him, he thought only of himself. He planned to build bigger barns and take life easy. But soon, he died. All his accumulated wealth went to someone else, and he had to face God.

Acquiring a lot of wealth in this world is finally worthless without Jesus. He is our real wealth. The Bible says, "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus, the eternal Son of God, left heaven and humbled himself to become a man. He bore the punishment of our sin, including the greed that lurks within our sinful nature. The result of his poverty is that we are freely given the riches of forgiveness and life with God.

When we think about our lives, we have so much to thank God for. Though we may not have all the worldly riches of our dreams, we have real wealth in Jesus!