

“Priority #1”

Luke 12:15-21

THE PICTURE OF A GARDEN

God tells us of many gardens in the Bible, right from the first one (Eden) where Adam and Eve lived. Why do people plant gardens?

For their own enjoyment

To get fruit from them

It is enjoyable to be a Christian with a relationship with God:

- 1) **peace in my soul** – Romans 5:1; *John 14:1* “*Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.*”
- 2) **friendship in the difficulties of life** – *Psalms 23:1* “*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*”
- 3) **purpose in my life** – *Psalms 40:1-3*, “*The Lord set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.*”

God is looking for fruit from our lives – has he received any worship from your life? (See Matthew 21:33-44)

“God is most greatly glorified by me, when I am content and happy with Him.”

This was the problem with the rich farmer of Luke 12 – God was not in his life, nor was God getting anything from his life. Notice some of the mistakes that he made:

HE MISTOOK HIMSELF FOR HIS GOD

Notice how many times he speaks about himself, and how few times (none) he speaks about God. He is a self-centred person. In his mind, he was his own god, and this was where he broke the first commandment of the law (“You shall have no other gods before Me”, Exodus 20:3).

But we all have **self-centredness** – an ego, a sinful nature. Whenever we rebel against God and His Word and disobey Him we are basically substituting ourselves for God. This is a serious offence. Are you willing to submit to God right now and **seek Him with all your heart**?

Psalms 119:2 – “*Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, that seek him with their whole heart.*”

Jeremiah 29:13 – “*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.*”

HE MISTOOK HIS BODY FOR HIS SOUL

But everyone needs something to fill their heart – and if it is not God, what will it be?

This man thought he could be satisfied with all the things that he had, but would that work? Human beings have more than a body that can be satisfied with things we can see, hear, touch, taste and smell.

We also have a non-material soul (Genesis 2:7) that can only be satisfied by a **relationship** with an invisible God! He said, “My soul, enjoy things” when he should have said, “My soul, enjoy God.” Where do you put the emphasis?

The **pleasures** of this world are just for a moment – that’s why people need to keep coming back for more. They are empty after enjoying the pleasures.

Mark 8:36, “*What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul.*”

HE MISTOOK TIME FOR ETERNITY (VERSES 19-20)

He thought he had many years to live, but God told him he would be judged that night. The truth about life is that we never know when it will end, and it is quite likely true for all of us that we have less time to live than we think. If you were to die tonight, are you ready to meet God? See Hebrews 9:27. Are you living like you have lots of time to prepare for God and believe Him? Remember that your time *could* be very short.

“All that is not eternal is eternally out of date.” (CS Lewis, 1898-1963)

Because of these mistakes, God called this man a FOOL. Please make sure you don’t make the same mistakes. Be rich towards God – after all, He has been rich towards you. He has given you ... life ... opportunities ... the gift of salvation!

