

How Are You Defining Your Life?
Kowloon International Baptist Church
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Luke 12:13-21
Kowloon Tong
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Jesus painted many word pictures to allow us to see our hearts. Reading his words, we could easily conclude that a problem of the heart lies at the heart of every problem.

One day Jesus was interrupted while preaching.

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" 15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." 16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. 17 He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops." 18 Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 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.'" 20 But God said to him, "You fool. This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you prepared for yourself?" 21 This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.

The story doesn't tell us much about this man. We do notice three assumptions lying within the story.

- 1) *Rich Man's* soul could be satisfied with possessions.
- 2) *Rich Man's* possessions would last.
- 3) *Rich Man* would live to enjoy his possessions.

What assumptions lie within the story of your life?

We also notice the *Rich Man's* preoccupation with himself.

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What do you think mattered most to the *Rich Man*?

From the story, all we can see is the way the man was consumed by his possessions.

20 But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you prepared for yourself?"

Jesus called the *Rich Man* a fool because all his plans ended at the grave. How much did the *Rich Man* leave behind when he died? He left everything, just like we do when our time on earth comes to an end.

Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart.

Job 1:21

Even though people of great positions may create elaborate tombs with many goods for the afterlife, everything they had on earth stays behind.

21 This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.

Most of us want some kind of relationship with God but if left to ourselves, we usually seek worldly things because we think they will bring fulfillment.

Anne Lamott wrote: "This turns out to be a joke, because they are just props, and when we check out of this life, we have to give them all back to the great prop master in the sky. They're just on loan. They're not ours."

Apparently, the *Rich Man* had no desire to be rich toward God.

We might ask, "How can one be *Rich toward God*?"

The foundation of the spiritual life is built as we confess our sins and receive Jesus Christ as our Savior. In so doing, we offer ourselves to God.

In view of God's mercy offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Romans 12:1-2

We regard ourselves as an "object" that has been offered to God.

We no longer have any rights to this "object." We belong to God.

We find our joy in fulfilling God's pleasure. What we are and what we have belongs to God.

Since Jesus has purchased my life...How does Jesus want to Define my Life?