



“INVESTMENT: Avoiding A Success That Fails”

Luke 12

Small Group Plan

*He is no fool
to give what he cannot keep
to gain what he cannot lose.*

— Jim Elliot

*In Whatever Man Does Without God,
He Must Fail Miserably,
Or Succeed More Miserably.*

— George MacDonald

*What Good Is It ...
To Gain The World, But Lose Your Soul?*

— Jesus

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- If your house caught on fire and family and pets were safe, what three possessions would you want to save from the flames?
- Are you more of a spender, saver, or giver? Explain.
- How does our culture define success? Why?
- If most people got what they wanted in “retirement” what would they get?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— THE STORY THAT PROMPTED THE STORY —

LUKE 12:13-15

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.”

- Why would someone conclude that the “abundance” defines their life?
- What would you say makes your life abundant right now?

— A SUCCESS THAT FAILS —

LUKE 12:16-20

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 have prepared for yourself?’”

- Count the personal pronouns in this man’s speech to himself. What does it tell you about him?
- What is the goal of this man’s life? If he were your son or a close friend, what would you say to him?
- Is Jesus condemning material prosperity in this parable? Explain.
- What in the man’s attitude led to God’s condemnation?
- What does “the ground” represent in verse 16?

— POSSESSED BY POSSESSIONS —

LUKE 12:21

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

- How do you reconcile this verse with Proverbs 6:6-8 which tells us to be like the ant and store up for the future?
- Also, how do you balance the message of this parable with Paul’s message to provide for our families (1 Tim. 5:8)?
- What does it mean to be “rich toward God?”

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- Why do you think people place such value on money and material possessions?
- Even though America is wealthy compared to the rest of the world, do you think of yourself as wealthy? Why or why not?
- Is it possible to be prosperous without being greedy? If so, how?
- If you could write your obituary, how would you fill in the following blanks?
 - * Last night, _____ died suddenly.
 - * He/she will always be remembered for _____.
 - * He/she always had time for _____.
 - * He/she felt that their possessions were _____.
- As you close your group in prayer, confess to God that He already owns everything and ask for **His** help to manage **His** wealth.