

# Fool-Proofing Your Life

## Luke 12:13-32

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**Looking at what Jesus says, what are some markers to watch for to avoid being a fool?**

### I. A self-absorbed life is a fool's life.

**Luke 12:13-21** “Someone in the crowd said to Him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’<sup>14</sup> But He said to him, ‘Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?’<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, ‘Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.’<sup>16</sup> And He told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man produced plentifully,<sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, “What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?”<sup>18</sup> And he said, “I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.<sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’”<sup>20</sup> But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?”<sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

This is a life turned inward, given to thinking about oneself continually. It is looking at life, void of God's perspective or His final say.

There are 11 places in three verses (vv. 17-19) where this man shows his true colors. The pronouns “I” and “my” are at the center of it. His whole world was reduced to the size of how his good fortune is interpreted, congratulating himself, and making plans for himself to reach that place where ease and comfort were realized.

**Luke 12:17-19** “And he thought to himself, ‘What shall **I** do, for **I** have nowhere to store **my** crops?’<sup>18</sup> And he said, ‘**I** will do this: **I** will tear down **my** barns and build larger ones, and there **I** will store all **my** grain and **my** goods.<sup>19</sup> And **I** will say to **my** soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’”

When you know Christ, everything gets framed with Him in view. Christ, right now, is on the throne and it's just a matter of time when all things, all kingdoms will recognize it. If you want those you love to know that you see that life is more than what's in it for you, don't live self-absorbed and with only your plans in view.

### II. An anxious life is a fool's life.

**Luke 12:22-31** “And He said to His disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.<sup>23</sup> For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.<sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!<sup>25</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?<sup>26</sup> If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that,

why are you anxious about the rest? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith! <sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup> For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> Instead, seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.”

Jesus shifts attention from our focus on what we think and do to preserve and expand our kingdom to our worry about having enough. He directs our attention to things we think about daily: what we eat and what we wear (how we look). What He said cuts through time.

Jesus compels us to look someplace different than we typically look. We are prone to look at ourselves and compare ourselves to others. But when you take time to consider how God provides for His creation, it shifts the focus from inward comparing and raises it to the beautiful provision of God all around us.

### III. God desires to give you what matters most.

**Luke 12:32** “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

This great promise comes to us in two pieces:

First, a command—“Don’t be afraid”—which is the command from God that occurs more than any other in scripture. But it also comes tenderly, for God knows our temptation to fear.

Second, Jesus moves beyond the imperative to speak to us with care. Jesus says “Little flock,” which in the original Greek is a double diminutive, something you cannot capture in English. Here is special emphasis on gentle communication, a grace-filled reminder that intently nurtures the attention of those who are His.

The best news is that God will give you what your heart ultimately longs for: right standing with God, forgiveness of sin, security as His adopted child, new life right now, and an eternity where your foolishness and your best, most wise days, all will live in the shadow of His grace.

**Isaiah 50:10-11** “Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of His servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. <sup>11</sup> Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled! This you have from My hand: you shall lie down in torment.”