



LUKE 12:13-21

MESSAGE BY FATHER CHUCK OWENS

“The Fool”

Thoughts to Ponder

1. Because Adam and Eve were created as adults, they never had the opportunities to experience adversity that most of us had as we grew up.
 - a. Describe some of the ways you benefited from adversity as you matured.
 - b. Speculate on how you might be different today had you never been a child.

2. Despite having their every need completely met in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve became obsessed with obtaining more.
 - a. How do you differentiate between your needs and wants?
 - b. Many folks are consumed with the desire to have more than they need; are you one of them? Explain why or why not.

3. Material wealth is a blessing – it’s a gift from our generous God and our first responsibility is to thank God for all we have received.
 - a. The farmer in Jesus’ story is patting himself on the back for his harvest while totally ignoring the sunlight and rain God alone provided. Describe a time you were guilty of ignoring God’s contributions to your success (remember God gave you your health, your brain and your talents).

- b. The Bible teaches that we are to thank God with a tithe of all He has given us. Are you being obedient? Explain why or why not.

- 4. Jesus said: “A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” (Luke 12:15 NIV) In other words: our possessions do not give our lives meaning.
 - a. How have you allowed your possessions to define you?
 - b. When folks converse after your funeral, will they be talking about your tangible accomplishments or the intangible essence of who you were?

- 5. Born in poverty in the late 1800s, my paternal grandparents’ simple definition of success for their children was rooted in their Southern Baptist biblical heritage: “Always be good, do right and go to church.” By your words and deeds, how are you defining success for your children?

