

## Parable of the Rich Fool

God's economy is **ETERNAL**,

ancient wealth & modern wealth

life on earth is short James 4:14; Psalm 102:3; Job 7:7

so giving is truly **GAINING**

rich toward God v. 21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19

church, gospel, poor (i.e. anyone around you in need)

and sharing brings **FREEDOM**.

from fear & anxiety

from greed & materialism

### ↑ Ways to Get Started...

1. First Fruits
2. A Generosity Fund
3. Tithing
4. A Graduated Tithe



## Food for Thought

Questions & Scripture for Further Study & Reflection

**What is this?** – Normally this section includes questions and a study for our Life Groups. If you're not in one, you should sign up in the Commons, let us know on a Connect Card (pew rack or in the app), or contact the church office! Most groups break for the holidays, but others will continue and use this for their study time together. Instead of our normal study guide, this is a smaller study and some questions for you to reflect/journal on throughout the week. Look for sign-ups for new groups this month!

### Food for Thought...

**Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching**, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

1. In your everyday life, how often do you find yourself near to or among those on the margins of our society? What has it looked like to share your resources with them?
2. As we finish this series, what invitations to generosity do you sense the Spirit extending?

*One person described hope as "strength borrowed from tomorrow for today." As humans, we are hope-generators, constantly trying to borrow strength and security from all sorts of sources to get through life: some reliable and some ... not so much. This week we're going to look at a passage that we've mentioned a few times in this series. In it, Paul highlights one of the more tempting but unreliable sources of security: **wealth**. With a pastoral urgency, Paul lovingly commands Timothy and those under his care not to place their hope in riches and the life they bring, inviting us to ask the question: On what foundation are we building our sense of hope?*

**Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19**, then answer the questions that follow below...

3. Depending on how you interpret the text, Paul offers seven commands in this short teaching to the rich. See if you can name them.

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4. In light of so much diversity and economic inequality around the globe, who are the "rich" in our world? If this passage is for us, not "someone else," which of the seven commands you listed feel most personally convicting?

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

*(Food for Thought continues on back panel...)*

# WELCOME TO WAWASEE

These are things you'll see to be true about us...



## 1. It's All About Jesus!

You'll hear us say this often.—Why? Because *it's all about Jesus!* Apart from his death, burial, and resurrection we're wasting our time.



## 2. God Wrote it All Down

God wrote a book—and we are to believe the Bible in all that it teaches, obey it in all it requires, and trust it in all that it promises.



## 3. All People Matter

No matter who you are, where you're from, what you've done, or what's been done to you—you *matter to Jesus and you matter to us!*



## 4. We All Need Friends

You were designed to belong, not to go through life alone. Jesus created each of us desiring friendship and to live in community.



## 5. No Sacred Cows

Jesus is sacred, God's Word is sacred, *but our opinions, methods, and traditions are not*—we'll let go of any of them if more people can experience life change through the Gospel!

## WORD FIND IN THE WORD

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

### Word Find: Luke 12:16-21 (NirV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

<sup>16</sup> Then Jesus **told** them a **story**. He **said**, "A **certain rich** man's **land** **produced** a **good crop**." <sup>17</sup> He **thought** to himself, "What should I do? I don't have any **place** to **store** my **crops**." <sup>18</sup> "Then he **said**, "This is what I'll do. I will **tear** down my **storerooms** and **build bigger ones**. I will **store** all my **grain** and my **other things** in them." <sup>19</sup> I'll say to myself, "You have **plenty** of **good things stored away** for **many years**. **Take life easy**. Eat, **drink** and have a **good time**." <sup>20</sup> "But God **said** to him, "You **foolish** man! This very night I will **take** your **life away** from you. **Then** who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" <sup>21</sup> "That is how it will be for anyone who **stores things away** for himself but is not **rich** in God's eyes."

P T A K T S J T H E N ' T  
W O S T O R E T T L I F E  
O Y E ' L C S H I C ' U A  
N E B U D B U O M D L R R  
E A S Y P I S U E F L G L  
S R A R L G T G O O D G L  
E S I B A G O H O L L D A  
R T D A C E R T A I N P N  
I O T H E R E U B U I L D  
C R O P ' P R O D U C E D  
H Y T A K E O G R A I N I  
U E K D F O O L I S H T U  
R ' A W A Y M A N Y H Y F  
U T H I N G S O K I C A G



## Food for Thought *(continued)*

5. What might the world look like if people believed they can "lay up treasures for themselves" eternally? How might it be different than it is now?

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6. What are the signs that someone has "put their hope in wealth"?

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### Wrapping up our series: The Good Life...

Meditate for a bit on Proverbs 23:4-5 below, then answer the questions that follow.

<sup>4</sup> Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness.

<sup>5</sup> Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings

and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

**PROVERBS 23:4-5 (NIV)**

7. How has your view of money and wealth changed during this series? Or what new insights has the Spirit been pressing upon your heart?
8. Where have you "worn yourself out" trying to get rich in some way? Or maybe better said, worrying and chasing after money/wealth/possessions in some way, shape, or form?
9. If riches can "sprout wings and fly off", we should have a plan for our giving and generosity. Do you have a plan? What is it?

This week's Food for Thought is adapted from "The Generosity Practice" (pages 74-78) published for free by Practicing the Way. Learn more at [practicingtheway.org](http://practicingtheway.org).



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at [wawaseebible.com/beliefs](http://wawaseebible.com/beliefs). Learn more about the EFCA at [efca.org](http://efca.org).

### Wawasee Community Bible Church

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# the good life.

Sunday, January 25, 2025

## PART 4

# Sharing is Care(take)ing

LUKE 12:13-34



**We're Glad You're Here Today!**



Scan QR code for our **App** with **Bulletin, Connect Card, Giving, & More...**

<https://wawasee.today>

practicing  
the **good** life.

### Make A Plan for Regular Giving

If you want this series to be the springboard to becoming a generous person, then you will need more than good intentions; you will need a plan!

Here's a short exercise designed to help you prayerfully make a plan for generosity coming out of this series:

- Find a quiet, distraction-free place and put away your phone and devices.
- Center yourself in God: take a few deep, slow breaths, ground yourself in the moment, and become aware of God's presence all around you.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to come and guide your mind into his will for your finances and future.

Then journal through the prompts below.

**What steps do you need to take or obstacles do you need to overcome to begin practicing generosity (i.e., secure employment, make a budget, get out of debt, pay down credit cards, sell your car and buy a cheaper model in cash, talk with a therapist about your financial fears, etc.)?**

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The three primary objects of generosity in the New Testament writings are the church, the gospel, and the poor (i.e. anyone around you in need).

**How do you feel led to give to your local church?**

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**How do you feel led to give to advance the gospel of the kingdom of God?**

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**What steps do you need to take to begin giving (i.e., set up automatic donations monthly, change your budget, research nonprofits, etc.)?**

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**Of some of the options talked about on Sunday, which one(s) do you feel your heart drawn to?** (Circle all that apply)

- First Fruits    A Generosity Fund    Tithing    A Graduated Tithe

**How do you want to adopt this practice (i.e., set aside \$50 a month for a generosity fund, begin tithing, stop eating out for lunch, etc.)?**

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Many followers of Jesus reach a point in their life where they set a “lifestyle cap,” a standard of living they do not go above. This enables them to give the extra away to what the Spirit is stirring in your heart. As Randy Alcorn says, “God blesses us to raise our standard of giving, not our standard of living.”

**If you have your basic needs met, do you want to set a “cap” on your lifestyle? If so, what do you feel is a joyful, peaceful, and appropriate way of life for you and your family in this season?**

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**Are there any other ideas or invitations you sense the Spirit bringing to your mind and heart as you process?**

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