

MISTAKES OF A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS MAN!

Luke 12:16-21

INTRODUCTION:

"It's better to make a life than a living!" -- William E. Russel, governor of Mass.

This is precisely the philosophy of Jesus that He set forth in His personal ministry over 1900 years BEFORE Governor Russel. Matt.6:19-21-*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."* Matt.16:24-26-*"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 "For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake shall find it. 26 "For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"* [READ TEXT]- Luke 12:16-21 *"And He told them a parable, saying, "The land of a certain rich man was very productive. 17 "And he began reasoning to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' 18 "And he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years to come; take your ease, eat, drink and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, '**YOU FOOL!** **THIS VERY NIGHT YOUR SOUL IS REQUIRED OF YOU; AND NOW WHO WILL OWN WHAT YOU HAVE PREPARED?'** 21 "So is the man who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

Our involvement in the business of making a living should not interfere with our vocation of making life!

Matt.6:25-34-*"For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body than clothing? 26 "Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? 27 "And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to his life's span? 28 "And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe how the lilies of the field grow; they do not toil nor do they spin, 29 yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory did not clothe himself like one of these. 30 "But if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more do so for you, O men of little faith? 31 "Do not be anxious then, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we clothe ourselves?' 32 "For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."*

I. NOTE FIRST THE ADMIRABLE QUALITIES OF THIS BUSINESS MAN:

A. He was rich. Lk.12:16.

1. Riches are desirable only because they give power to do good! Mt.27:57ff. [*Joseph of Arimathea was well-to-do, he owned a tomb, he buried Jesus!*]
2. The thing that's wrong about "money" is when we start "loving" it --- **AND THEN WE'RE WRONG, not the money!** 1 Tim 6:10 *"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."*
3. The early Christians utilized their wealth to a good degree by sharing with those who had need! Acts 4:36-37--*"And Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles, (which translated means, Son of Encouragement), 37 and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet."*

B. So far as we know, the "Business Man" of our text made his money honestly!

C. He was successful. Luke 12:16.

1. His accumulation of wealth was suddenly drastically increased from his bountiful harvest!
2. An anonymous statement would fit very aptly to his circumstance: **"HE IS A BENEFACTOR WHO CAN GROW TWO BUSHELS WHERE ONE DID GROW!"**

D. He was a moral man, yet the Lord called him **"YOU FOOL!"**

II. CONSIDER THE MISTAKES THIS MAN MADE:

- A. He was SELFISH. There are at least 12 personal pronouns that he used in our text!
1. He kept saying, “*MY barns, MY fruits, MY goods, MY soul...*”.
 2. His attitude didn’t seem to show ANY concern or consideration or thought for anyone but himself!
 - a) The godly traits that our Father expects US to HAVE and to EXHIBIT are those inter-personal activities that help us benefit each other! Gal.6:10; Jas.1:26-27.
 - b) Wouldn’t you think it strange that if I were CLAIMING to walk in the steps/ works of Jesus you never found me LOOKING for GOOD I could be doing for others?
 - c) And it would certainly be a SAD STATE OF AFFAIRS for me to malign and subvert with negative words/ actions those who WERE seeking opportunities of righteousness, wouldn’t it?
 - d) Mr. Heinz’s motto was: “GOD first, OTHERS second, and PICKLES last!”
 3. An old man once said he thought there’d be three questions asked at the judgment to focus on the attitudes of earthly life: (1) Did you make all you could? (2) How did you make it? (3) How did you USE it?
- B. He thought that his SOUL WAS SATISFIED BY MATERIAL THINGS! [*“Soul, eat/ drink/ be merry --- THOU hast much laid up...”*]
1. The things of a material nature are going to perish! John 6:27 *“Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, for on Him the Father, even God, has set His seal.”*
 2. And this “**food**” which comes from the Son of Man tells us how to LIVE HERE, in order to live THERE with the Lord eternally! Matt.4:4; Rom.14:17-*“for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking [not things of a temporal nature], but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”*
 3. There’ll come a time when we, too, will realize that worldly values are not necessarily heavenly values! A shipwrecked sailor who had been stranded alone on an island and was having to exert diligence for sustenance, found a package washed ashore from the wreck. He frantically opened it and in dismay proclaimed, “ALAS, it’s ONLY a passenger’s pearls!”
- C. He LEFT GOD OUT of His life! Psa 24:1 *“The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.”* Psa 73:28-*“But as for me, the nearness of God is my good; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Thy works.”* Psa 86:1-*“Incline Thine ear, O LORD, and answer me; For I am afflicted and needy.”* Rev 3:20-21-*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me. 21 ‘He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.’”* Mat 22:37-*“And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.”* James 4:7-10-*“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 DRAW NEAR to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. 10 HUMBLE YOURSELVES in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”*
- D. He acted like he THOUGHT HE HAD A LEASE ON LIFE:
1. “Take it easy. You have a lot of provisions FOR MANY YEARS. Eat, drink, be merry!”
 2. Psa.14:1-*“The FOOL has said in his heart, “THERE IS NO GOD.” They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.”* Matt.16:26-*“For what will a man be profited, if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”* Jas.4:14-*“Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”*

CONCLUSION:

Just as in the case of the Business Man in our lesson, our SPIRITUAL LIVES are *not measured by our material successes!* NOR is our life to be considered a SUCCESS or a FAILURE just by our COMPARISON WITH EACH OTHER! The ONE THING that causes us to be successful in the sight of God is our obedience to His commandments to us! Matt.7:21-23.