

Lost or Grateful?

CHARACTERS: Foreman, Angel, Devil, Rich Man

PROPS: Gold pocket watch on a chain, sign pointing offstage to “hell”.

SETTING: Bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Luke 12:16-21, Deut. 8: 11-18, Ephesians 5:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Romans 1:20-21

At rise: RICH MAN is taking it easy in a chair center stage with DEVIL stage left of RICH MAN and ANGEL stage right. Sign pointing to “hell” is stage left. FOREMAN enters stage right and crosses to RICH MAN

FOREMAN: (*pleased*) Sir, your land was very productive this year. We can’t store all the grain and produce.

ANGEL: (*joyful*) Give thanks to the Lord, and let everyone know how he has blessed you.

DEVIL: (*immediately grabbing RICH MAN by shoulders and spinning RICH MAN to face him*) Time for that later. You need to figure out what to do.

RICH MAN: What should I do, since I don’t have anywhere to store my crops?

ANGEL: (*Tapping him on the shoulder*) Take a moment and be thankful.

DEVIL: (*grabbing RICH MAN’S shoulders and attention*) You worked hard for this. Don’t lose it now.

RICH MAN: I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and store all my grain and my goods there.

DEVIL: (*congratulating RICH MAN*) And that is just the start. (*arm around RICH MAN so they can stare off into the distance stage left, imagining ...*) When you eat and are full, build beautiful houses to live in.

ANGEL: (*concerned*) Be careful that your heart doesn’t become proud and you forget God.

RICH MAN: (*boasting*) My power and my own ability have gained this wealth for me.

DEVIL: Now is the time to expand, to multiply your herds and flocks, your silver and gold, and everything else you have.

ANGEL: (*urgently concerned, trying to tap RICH MAN and get his attention*) Be thankful. Remember that the Lord gives you the power to gain wealth.

DEVIL: (*Patting RICH MAN on the back*) You have many goods stored up for many years. Take it easy; eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.

RICH MAN: Good idea.

ANGE: Don't be so foolish! What if, this very night, your life is demanded of you? These earthly possessions you have prepared—whose will they be? *RICH MAN seems startled by this thought and starts to turn toward ANGEL but DEVIL spins him back toward DEVIL*

DEVIL: Ignore that pessimist. *(taking out gold watch and chain and swinging it back and forth to hypnotize RICH MAN)* You did this yourself and you deserve to enjoy by yourself.

RICH MAN: *(in a trance)* Right. I did this and I deserve to enjoy it.

DEVIL: Whoever ends up with the most toys wins.

RICH MAN: *(still entranced)* Most toys wins.

ANGEL: *(Sadly)* One's life is not summed up by the abundance of his possessions.

DEVIL: *(guiding RICH MAN by the arm toward the "hell" sign)* Let's go on vacation – somewhere very warm with lots of successful people just like yourself. *Dazed RICH MAN allows himself to be guided.*

ANGEL: *(Saddened, and motioning toward "hell" sign)* That's where you end up when you store up treasure for yourself and are not rich toward God.

DEVIL: *(aside to audience)* It's easy to trick humans.

ANGEL: Though they knew God, they don't glorify Him as God or show gratitude.

DEVIL: *(swinging the watch)* Instead, their thinking becomes nonsense, and their senseless minds are darkened.

ANGEL *(Grieved)*: Claiming to be wise, they become fools

DEVIL: Then time is up. *(catching up the watch with a flourish)*. And it's too late