

# The Parable of the Rich Fool

CHARACTERS: 5

COSTUMES: none specified

PROPS: none specified

SETTING: none specified

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Luke 12:16-21, Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21

A: Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.

JESUS: Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?

A: I just thought maybe you'd tell him to be fair so I could get my share.

JESUS: Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.

RICH: It doesn't?????

JESUS: I'll explain with a parable. The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.

RICH: What shall I do? My barns are full. I have no place to store my crops.

A: You could give some away?

RICH: I suppose I could do that with some. I could hire some trumpeters and announce to the world what a generous guy I am. Everyone would honor me.

B: Not such a good idea. When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret.

RICH: Why would I want to do that?

B: Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

RICH: Forget that idea. Next?

C: Give more than a tithe to God.

RICH: (*dismissively*) Why? Ten per cent is plenty.

C: If you store up for yourselves treasures on earth, the moths and vermin can destroy it.

RICH: Those rats and mice are awful vermin, eating my grain up. I need to build a better mouse trap.

B: Plus, thieves break in and steal.

RICH: I should hire some guards. Big, tough karating kicking guards.

C: Consider storing up treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

B: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

RICH: This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. With mouse traps and armed guards.

A: Why? What good will it do, sitting around in a big barn?

RICH: I'll be able to say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

VOICE OF GOD: *(from offstage)* You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?

JESUS: This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.