



*Day 9:*

# Saving

*Building Bigger Barns*



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## OVERVIEW

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God's word tells us that it is wise to save for the future, but in Luke 12 we see the harsh reality of saving for the wrong reasons.

Our story starts with a brother upset over an inheritance. He asks Jesus to help him out. Jesus does, but probably not in the way he was expecting. Rather than arbitrate a settlement, Jesus gives him something much better: advice to be on guard against all kinds of greed.

To further His point, Jesus then jumps into a story about a rich man who has absolutely crushed it during the harvest season, so much so that he doesn't even have enough room to store his crops.

This rich man starts talking to himself (which seems a little weird) about building bigger barns to store this enormous crop. For him, it seems to make sense: he'll have years of grain stored so he can sit back, eat, drink, and be merry. It's perfect! Except it's not.

You see, there's someone who isn't a big fan of this plan- God. And He flat out sticks it to the rich man, calling him a fool and letting him know it's over. His self-centered life is done, leaving him with one final question: Who gets your grain now?

Here's the deal: saving can be a really good thing - helping us give generously, provide for our families, and meet our financial obligations during times of financial hardship. It can be a huge blessing, propelling us to do what God has called us to even in the midst of challenging times.

But as the rich man experienced, it also can also be a huge hindrance, negatively impacting our relationship with the Lord as our hearts are drawn toward the provision and away from the provider - using savings and abundance selfishly rather than for the purposes of God.

So, yes, save for the rainy days. Save for the future. Save so the shackles of debt find it hard to grab hold of you. But while you're at it, remember this: we find our security by trusting in God, not in the building of bigger barns.

## DAY 9 - Devotional



### PRAYER

Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you begin reading passages of Scripture. Ask for clarity and insight as you engage in God's word.



### SCRIPTURE READING

Read Luke 12:13-21

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." <sup>16</sup> And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

**OBSERVATION**

*What do these verses say about . . .*

The brother?

The rich man?

God?

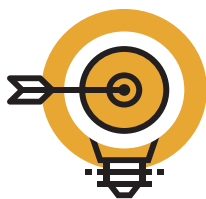
Saving?



## INTERPRETATION

What does it look like in our world today to be on guard against covetousness?

What would be a modern example of building bigger barns?



## APPLICATION

What steps can you take to avoid the temptation of building bigger barns?