

# THE PARABLES OF Jesus

## “The Good Life”

## Lesson 8

“Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “\_\_\_\_\_!” (Luke 12:19-20)

**“The good life.”** We hear people talking about that every once in a while. We see depictions of it all the time, all around us—“This is ‘the good life.’” But what is “the good life”? Is the way King Jesus talks about “the good life” different from the way many of us naturally think of “the good life”?

This really isn’t a modern question. People have been theorizing and experimenting in search of “the good life” for thousands of years. Just listen to the words of “the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem” (Eccl 1:1) as he describes his search for “the good life” in Ecclesiastes 2:1-11...

He enjoyed... laughed... searched... drank... made... built... planted... bought... gathered... got... became great... surpassed... and what conclusion did he reach? Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was \_\_\_\_\_ and a striving after \_\_\_\_\_, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun. (2:11)

### **“Remember That You in Your Lifetime Received Your Good Things...”**

With that in mind, let’s take our time with two more “upside-down” parables that Jesus used to teach us about “the good life.”

- **The parable of the foolish farmer** (Luke 12:16-21)

The parable’s conclusion: “So is the one who lays up treasure for \_\_\_\_\_ and is not rich toward God.”

- **The parable of the rich man and Lazarus** (Luke 16:19-31)

The parable’s conclusion: “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.”



What do these parables help us see? **Let’s talk about it...**



### **For Class & Family Discussion:**

“What is ‘the good life?’” How would a whole lot of people answer that question, leaving God out of their answer?

What’s the problem with leaving God out of our answer (and thinking) to that question?

Thinking back to [Ecclesiastes 2:1-11](#) and all those things Solomon enjoyed... laughed... searched... drank... made... built... planted... bought... gathered... got... became great... surpassed... why can’t those things *on their own* add up to “the good life”?

If we peek a little before Jesus’ parable of the foolish farmer to [Luke 12:13-15](#), what do we find about *why* Jesus told this parable?

In everyday terms, what does it mean to “lay up treasure” for oneself and not be “rich toward God”?

How does Jesus’ parable of the foolish farmer and his parable about the rich man and Lazarus turn our conception of “the good life” upside down?

If we circle back to [Ecclesiastes 12:13-14](#), how is Solomon’s grand conclusion a great way of wrapping this topic up and giving us something to carry with us this week? **“The good life” really is...**