

Luke 12:18

So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.'

How many of you have ever rented a storage unit or maybe even now, you still have a storage unit that you are paying for? I know that some of us have done it at one time or another over the years.

There is even a program called "Storage Wars" where people bid on storage units that someone forgot about or could not pay for. The way it works is, the owner of the storage place cuts the lock off the storage unit, opens the door to the storage unit, and everyone gets to look inside without actually going in and seeing everything that is in it. Then they all start bidding and the highest bidder wins everything that's in the storage unit. Sometimes people will win the bid on a storage unit with hidden things in it worth thousands of dollars, and some actually lose money because it's full of junk. Regardless of what's in there, it's their responsibility to take everything out, even if it's junk, because they paid for it.

Now think of the man in today's devotional verse, in fact, let's read the entire parable about this man that Jesus spoke about.

† **Luke 12:16-21** *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.' ' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

This man who wanted to build more, and bigger barns to hold all of his stuff, needed to do so because he was not helping others. Note his words, which include him saying many times ***"I have"***, ***"I do"***, ***"I will"***.

Me, me, me, isn't that what the world has turned into, therefore, we need to rent storage to hold all the stuff for ME. Not so I can share it with others, or not so I can give it away, but so "I" can have it and "I" can keep it for "Me". Some go as far as renting storage units that actually cost more to rent than the contents in it. They pay hundreds of dollars each year for something worth next to nothing, and you couldn't even sell it at a swap meet or a yard sell, because it's worthless. But they think that it's mine and I want it, even though it's useless so I will pay big bucks to keep it.

But think of this, if you have to hold onto your “stuff”, and pay to store your “stuff”, because you have so much “stuff”, maybe it’s because you are not doing or giving to others. Even in the neighborhood I live in, most of the cars are parked either in the driveway or on the street. Why, because they have all their stuff stored in the garage. Stuff that has been there for years and never touched. Yet we say, I can’t do for others, I have so little and make so little. But if you have storage or things filling up your garage, then it sounds like you have plenty, and it’s more of you are not willing to part with your stuff to help out others.

We always talk about doing an inventory of our hearts and lives and seeing if we are walking with the Lord the way we should be, trying to get the old junk out of our lives, emotionally and spiritually.

Well, today, or this weekend, it may be time for some of you to look at the storage unit you have, or your garage so packed full of stuff that you can’t even get your car into it, and do an inventory of your “Stuff”. Maybe have a yard sales or go to the swap meet and sell your stuff that you really don’t need and is costing you more to store then it’s worth. Then take that money and use it for the needs or benefit of others. Maybe some of the stuff you can give away to those who need it. Now that does not mean give your garbage stuff away, but good stuff that others could really benefit from.

So many ways you can start cleaning the physical “Stuff” out of your life for the benefit of others. For some, it’s time to clean out those barns by giving and doing for others, then once they are getting empty, maybe the Lord will give you more stuff, that you can have to bless you and others with.

- † **James 2:15-16** *If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?*

- † **Luke 16:9 (NLT2)** *Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.*