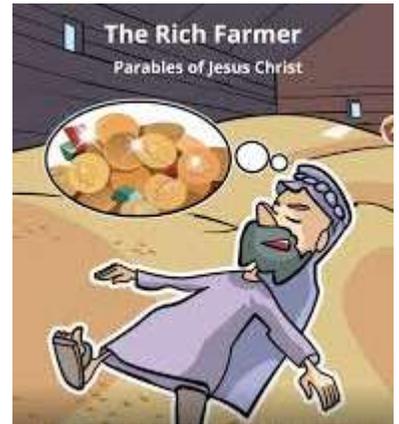




## ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

AUGUST 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025 PEBBLES

Based on Luke 12:13-21



Just for the moment I want you to imagine that in front of you is a very big packet of marshmallows. Just for the moment just look at it! Don't take one out just yet. What's better than just imagining if you have some marshmallows in front of you would be to actually have a packet of marshmallows in front of you.

Now imagine if you were told that you could eat just one of the marshmallows if you waited for a minute, but if you waited for two minutes you could eat two marshmallows, and then if I timed you for waiting a full five minutes you could have the whole bag of marshmallows!

Do you think you could wait for the full five minutes or only the two? Would it be hard for you to wait?

We often believe that having more of something is better than having less. For example, most of us would have rather have had the opportunity to just take the marshmallows as we want, right? But some people get this very wrong.

Sometimes we like to just go through each day collecting more and toys, e-games, clothes, shoes, lego – all kinds of things. When people ask what they can give as birthday or Christmas presents we say just money because they think having more things or money will make them happy. But having more of those things isn't what brings us true happiness and joy. True and everlasting happiness can only be found in Jesus.

Jesus warned against finding happiness and joy only in having lots of 'stuff and money'. Jesus said, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life doesn't consist in having lots of possessions." Then he told the story of a man whose land had produced so much grain that he had no place to store it all because his shed was full. Even though the farmer had filled his storage are, he wanted more and more, so he decided to tear down his sheds and build even bigger ones! Jesus said the man was a fool, because when his life was over, he would have to leave everything behind. He couldn't take all his possessions and money with him.

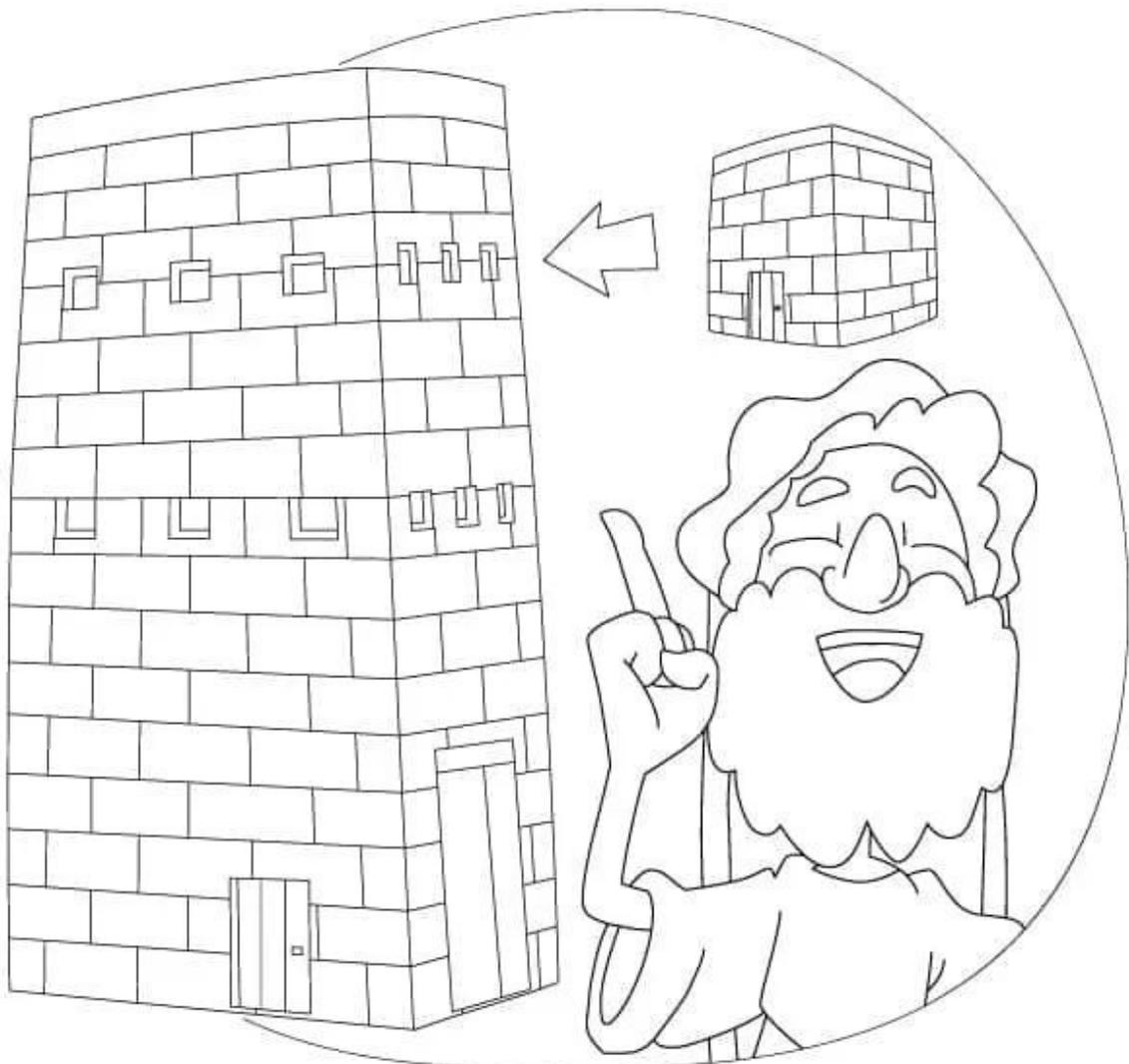
God has promised to supply everything we need, but God hasn't promised to fulfill every selfish wish. "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed." This is where we can say to ourselves, no I don't want to be greedy and take all the marshmallows for myself, I want to share them with everyone until there's none left.

One for me, one for you, and you, and you.....

**Dear Jesus,** today I want to ask you to help all of us to be happy with the blessings which you have so generously given us all and help us to be ready and willing to share everything we have and not be selfish. In the name of Jesus, we pray amen.

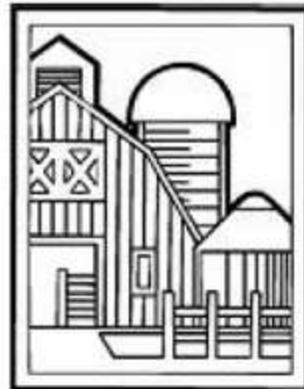


<https://youtu.be/HFLkkGVDPQ4>



# The Parable of the Rich Fool

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain \_\_\_\_\_ man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my \_\_\_\_\_.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my \_\_\_\_\_ and build \_\_\_\_\_ ones, and there I will store all my \_\_\_\_\_ and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_."'

"But God said to him, 'You \_\_\_\_\_! This very night your \_\_\_\_\_ will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:16-21 (NIV)

barns  
bigger

crops  
drink

eat  
fool

grain  
life

merry  
rich

# THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

*Luke 12:16-21*



*This rich fool stored up his treasures on earth, not in heaven.*

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# NEEDS OVER WANTS

Cut the bails of hay into individual bails and put them in the column where you think they should go. You name the empty bails and then place them in the column where you think they belong.

