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Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D.,
Teacher of English Bible in the Moody
Bible Institute of Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR DECEMBER 24

A LESSON IN TRUST AND PRE- PAREDNESS

LESSON TEXT—Luke 12:13-40.

GOLDEN TEXT—The life is more than
meat, and the body is more than raiment.
—Luke 12:23.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of a
Foolish Rich Man.

JUNIOR TOPIC—A Foolish Rich Man.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC

—Rich Toward God.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC

—True Riches.

Since on October 8 we had a lesson
on the birth and childhood of Jesus,
many will doubtless prefer to have
this new lesson instead of the Christ-
mas lesson.

I. A Warning Against Covetousness
(vv. 13-21).

1. The Occasion (vv. 13-15). One of
the company requested Jesus to be
umpire in a disputed estate. Two
brothers were in trouble over an in-
heritance. Christ refused to enter the
sphere of the civil law and warned
against the spirit of avarice. Christ's
mission was preeminently spiritual.

2. Enforcement of the Warning (vv.
16-21). The parable of the rich man
shows clearly that to be concerned
with earthly riches while neglecting
God is the height of folly. The Lord's
warning is of great importance today;
for many are seeking gold and forget-
ting God. Note (1) his increase in
goods (v. 16). His riches were rightly
obtained, for the ground brought forth
plentifully. This shows that a man
may be rich because of the Lord's
blessing upon him. (2) His perplexity
(v. 17). His land was producing more
than his barns would hold. He did not
want it to go to waste. If he had pos-
sessed the right views of life and a
sense of stewardship before God, he
would have seen that his barns at least
had enough for his personal needs and
that he could have distributed his sur-
plus to the needy and for benevolent
purposes. (3) The fatal choice (vv.
18, 19). He chose to enlarge his
barns and give up his life to ease and
luxury. It ought to be a delightful
task for men whom God has made
rich to devote their time and energy
to the distribution of their possessions
to benevolent purposes. (4) The aw-
ful indictment (vv. 20, 21). God calls
him a fool.

II. The Certain Cure for Anxiety
(vv. 32-34).

Having shown the folly of the rich
man who gained gold but lost God, He
now urged the disciples to trust God
and dismiss all anxious care. He as-
sured them that they need not be anx-
ious even for the necessities of life.
Note:

1. The Argument (vv. 22, 23). This
is summed up in one brief sentence:
"The life is more than food, and the
body is more than raiment." The God
who gave the life and made the body
should be trusted to provide food and
clothing.

2. The Illustrations (vv. 24-28). (1)
God's care for the fowls (vv. 24-26).
The ravens do not sow nor reap—they
have not storehouse or barn, yet they
live, for God feeds them. If God does
not forget the fowls, certainly He
would do more for His children. (2)
God's care for the flowers of the field
(vv. 27, 28). If God is so careful of
those flowers which appear but for a
day, how much more will He clothe
His children!

3. The Exhortations (vv. 29-34). (1)
Make not the getting of food and
clothes your chief concern. Trust God
to provide them. (2) Seek the king-
dom of God (v. 31). Those who make
God's kingdom first shall have all their
needs supplied (Phil. 4:19). (3) Be
not afraid (v. 32). God's good pleas-
ure is upon His own, and all good
things will He give them. (4) Prac-
tice self-denial in order to be able to
give gifts to those in need (vv. 33, 34).
The doing of such deeds will tend to
lift the thoughts upward to God—to
trust Him.

III. Be Ready for the Coming of the
Lord (vv. 35-40).

Having warned the disciples against
the acquisition of worldly goods while
forgetting God, and shown them the
needlessness of anxiety for food and
clothes, He shows them the blessed-
ness of being in a state of readiness
when the Lord shall come. Convic-
tion as to the certainty of the Lord's
coming is the sure cure for worldliness
and anxious care. This attitude of
heart He made clear by two parables—
that of the returning of the Lord and
that of the thief. The Lord will be so
pleased with those who are waiting
for Him that He will take delight in
sitting at the banquet with them, and
even serve them. The parable of the
thief shows that the time of the Lord's
coming is not known.

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WHEN YOU TURN OVER THAT

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make a firm resolution that you won't go through the
year 1923 with your wife and children, your house, your
barn or your place of business unprotected.

Make the Most Sensible Resolution that you ever made in your life.

INSURE YOUR PROPERTY AND YOUR LIFE

We will gladly talk it over with you.

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SOME OF THESE DAYS

The man who had a chance to get a bit of
EDGEMOORE HEIGHTS land and failed to get
it, will feel about as joyous over it as the man who
a few years ago had a chance to get dollar-an-acre
land and let it go until the price went into the air.

SANDHILL LAND

looks high today because we always compare to-
day with yesterday, but we should turn the tele-
scope and compare today with tomorrow. When
we do that land will look absurdly low.

Land values are all comparative. The price of one acre is
high or low as compared with that of another acre similarly
located.

That being the case prices are just as high today as a hun-
dred years ago; and they are just as low. It takes more money
to buy an acre, that's all. The advances will go on day after
day. Land bought now makes just as much money at present
prices as land bought twenty years ago at prices prevailing then
has made.

More people are buying the same old land, and as the num-
ber increases the price goes up. That is all there is to land in-
vestment. GET YOURS NOW, and get it on

EDGEMOORE HEIGHTS

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FRANK BUCHAN, Southern Pines,
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