

Rich Toward God (on Luke 12:13-21—the Parable of the Rich Fool by Jared C. Wilson—excerpt from the Men’s Devotional ESV Bible)

Jesus once said that it is very difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Not impossible (for all things are possible with God), but very difficult. Why?

I think we see the answer in this parable, where we find an example of a man so caught up in the pursuit of stuff that he has forgotten what really matters. He’s taken good things—wise investment, providing for his family, providing employment for others, good stewardship in general—and made them ultimate things. The pursuit of more, bigger, better has effectively become his god.

In fact, we see that his very security and his very happiness are tied up in what he can attain and what he can build to hold what he has attained. He is storing up goodies for himself, but he’s not rich toward God.

The warning is clear: “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” (Luke 12:20). As Jesus asks elsewhere, “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?” (Mark 8:36).

We must not become earth-rich and God-poor. When the day of accounting comes, when the kingdom’s currency is requested for entrance into paradise, all the wealthy, fun-loving, permanent-vacation-taking souls will come up totally empty-handed.

Now, some may read this parable of the foolish rich man and think to themselves, “Ah, he should have cared more for others. If he had given more money away, he’d have the treasure of having done good.” And it is imperative that we do good to others, but that kind of giving is a poverty all its own. When we reach the gates of Paradise and are asked for the currency of the kingdom to prove our right to enter, we best not try to hand in our own righteousness. The Bible says, “All our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment” (Isa. 64:6).

No, when the opportunity comes to present our justification for entry into everlasting rest, we need only present an empty hand, saying, “I have nothing of my own to offer. But I am clothed in the righteousness of Christ that I have received through faith, which makes me totally vested in his unsearchable riches. My Saviour, in the great grace of God, has purchased my entrance for me.”

Or in the words of the beloved hymn, “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling.” That is how to be rich toward God.

giving: financial stewardship update

Last Week:	\$4,315.05
Weekly Required (for 2018):	\$5,528.00
Shortfall (for 2018):	\$1,374.00

electronic fund transfer

A/C Name:	SLE Church
Bank:	National Australia Bank
BSB:	084-424
A/C No:	396558544
Description:	Offering

04 February 2018

welcome to sle church

We are delighted to have you join us today! It is our prayer that you will enjoy all aspects of our gathering this morning.

about

The ‘SL’ in ‘SLE’ means St Lucia. The suburb our church is located in. The ‘E’ stands for English. We are a church family made of many migrant families from across South-East Asia, and we are English speaking. The ‘E’ also stands for Evangelical. We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services.

get connected

Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are new to SLE Church, have a prayer request, family news, or change of contact details please email: info@slechurch.org.au or call 3371 7589.

Connect with us online: slechurch.org.au or ‘like’ us for further updates at facebook.com/slechurch

service times

9:00am and 11:00*am

* change to 11:40am at the South Hall from 11 February

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane



THE STORIES JESUS TOLD

FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

serving grace

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Randy	Ps Ben
Preach	Ps Ben	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Chi <i>Alice</i>	Simeon <i>Dan Lowe</i>
M.Tea	Suzanne Sharnee	Georgie Daisy
Wash Up	SOS Dan	SOS Dan
Welcome	Philip Mee Lan Amy <i>TBA</i> <i>TBA</i> <i>TBA</i>	Philip Mee Lan Amy <i>TBA</i> <i>TBA</i> <i>TBA</i>
Stewards	Philip Norman <i>Josh</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i>	Philip Norman <i>Josh</i> <i>Aaron</i> <i>Stanley</i>
Piano	Joanna	Dan Lowe
Guitar etc	CY	Ivan, Aaron
Drums	Lucas	Marcus/ Ariel
Vocal	Jolene	Dan Lowe / Jolene
PA	William	Reuten/ LiWei
	Chris	William

current sermons

Last Week: Parables in Luke #2: The Good Samaritan
[Luke 10:25-37]

This Week: Parables in Luke #3: Table Talk
[Luke 14:1-24]

Next Week: Parables in Luke #3: Three Times Found
[Luke 15:1-15]

prayer points

- Praise God that by faith in Jesus, and through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, we can come to Jesus' words in His parables and respond faithfully. Pray that we would respond as 'good soil' - hearing the challenging and life changing words of Jesus and living with Kingdom oriented priorities.
- Praise God that SLE Church's prayers of space have been answered! Praise God for HET's generous offer of the use of the 'South Hall' to help cater for the growing needs of SLE's second service. Praise God for their partnership, and pray that our use of space across this church would be done in the spirit of brotherhood and with a Kingdom mindset.
- Pray for the upcoming weeks as our families gather for Chinese New Year celebrations. Pray that in the midst of feasting and celebrations that we would be thankful for the grace that has been showered upon us in Jesus.
- Pray also for the coming weeks in which international students will begin journeying back to Brisbane and our church. Pray that they will journey safely, settle in quickly, and find churches that will encourage them in their growth and service.

community news

1. Stop the Press!! Second Service Time and Location Change!

Please take especial notice of the time and location change for our second service.
Time: 11:30am (begin entering hall—do NOT enter before this time); 11:40am service starts.
Location: St Lucia South Hall (formerly HET/Chinese Hall)

This change will take effect from **11 February 2018. Please tell everyone!**

2. SLE Church Members (and committed attendees) Meeting

All members and those committed to SLE Church are invited and encouraged to attend an information session on 18th February, from 10:45-11:15am in the North Hall (prev. SLE Hall).

Over the past few months, we have started to consider what God's mission, values and visions are with regards to our church. To follow up, we have planned for the meeting to cover the following:

- explain the terms, processes and timeline of formulating the Mission, Vision and Values (MVV)
- share what processes the SLE Church Council have been undertaking
- begin the process of hearing from the members and committed attendees on these issues.

This process of developing our MVV will impact all of us as individuals and as a church, so we hope that you will come along and be a part of these discussions.

Please make this meeting a top priority. See you on **18th Feb at 10:45am**, in the North Hall.

date claimers

1. Second service time and location change—11 February
2. SLE Church Members (and committed attendees) Meeting—18 February

church contacts

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Table Talk (Luke 14, focussing on vv15-24)

1. Introduction

A. Three groups that Jesus spoke to

C. Are you going?

B. Context (13:23-30, 34; 14:1-14)

3. The Parable's Great Encouragement

A. Party on! Fill the House!

2. The Parable's Great Warning

A. "Blessed is everyone who will eat in the kingdom of God"

B. Compel them to come! Fill the house!

B. "I'm not coming"

4. Conclusion