

August 08/09, 2026

"The Rich Fool"

Pastor Aaron Buer



Beyond the
Weekend

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY, + ACT.

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | **August:** Lament

Each month, journey through a different biblical model of prayer.

Day 1 [Luke 12:13–21](#) | Watch Out

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." Luke 12:15

People from every walk of life press in on Jesus. The crowd swells to thousands, and a distraught man pushes forward, asking Jesus to settle a financial dispute with his brother. Rather than step in as arbiter, Jesus turns the moment into a lesson for this man and everyone within earshot. He tells them of a rich fool who tears down his barns to hoard a bumper harvest. The man's plan is to "eat, drink and be merry" ([Luke 12:19](#)), giving no thought to God or anyone else. Jesus calls him a fool and calls everyone listening to be rich toward God instead.

Greed rarely announces itself as greed. It disguises itself as caution, as ambition, as simply being careful with what we've earned. But greed works like a bucket with a hole in the bottom—no matter how much security or stuff we pour in, we never feel full. The rich fool trusted his barns to hold his future. We can just as easily trust our own savings, foresight, and hustle. God invites us into something different: not less planning, but fuller trust. He asks us to be rich toward him—resting in his provision rather than our own.

TODAY: Before your next purchase or financial decision—even a quick check of your bank balance—pause and pray this line: "Father, may all my spending and saving honor you." As you pray, reflect on the gracious character of God, who calls you to be rich toward him.

Day 2 [Luke 12:16–19](#) | Bigger Barns

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'" Luke 12:18–19

The rich man in this parable surveys his fields and does the math: bigger barns, more room, years of ease ahead. He talks to himself in a way that is reassuring and self-satisfied. Not once does he mention God. Not once does he think of anyone but himself. His wealth becomes his applause, and his plans stop at his own comfort. Jesus doesn't call him wicked or violent. He calls him a fool because he's spent his life building a life that ends the moment he tries to enjoy it alone.

Our culture isn't short on abundance. Many of us have experienced real blessings, and most of us are comfortable—we have what we need, and often more. That comfort feels good, but it can quietly become something more than comfort. It can become the place where we look for our worth, security, and purpose. Sometimes that shows up as saving. Other times, it shows up as spending. Either way, we've quietly believed a

lie: that more stuff equals more life. It doesn't. When something we own becomes the thing we trust to give us safety, security, or meaning, it stops being a possession and becomes an idol. An idol works like an unwelcome tenant—it doesn't ask permission; it just moves in and occupies space that belongs to God alone. Scripture doesn't tell us to negotiate a new lease. It tells us to evict it: "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature" ([Colossians 3:5a](#)).

TODAY: Notice what occupies your mind first thing in the morning and last thing at night, and notice where your money goes; that's usually where your trust actually lives. Confess to God any idol you find there, and ask him to help you put your trust in him alone.

Day 3 [Psalm 24:1–2](#) | Stewardship

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1

The Psalms are a handbook on the character of God and how to pray to him amid the ups and downs of life. David's prayer, found here in [Psalm 24](#), is an affirmation of God's greatness and how he owns all things—including all money and possessions—because he is their creator. David writes this as a king who commands armies and controls vast territory, yet he still confesses that none of it is ultimately his. God alone is the rightful owner of everything.

Because God owns it all, we are not our own either. Everything in our lives—our time, our talents, our gifting, our resources—belongs to him. A steward is a manager who takes care of something in the owner's service. We are the stewards; God is the owner. To be greedy is to forget that distinction—to treat what's on loan as if it were ours to keep. Holding our lives loosely and offering them back to God is the antidote to greed. It frees us from greed's grip so we can live the full life Jesus offers. As followers of Jesus, we are to reflect the heart of God, who generously gave himself to us. The rich fool in our story this week stored up grain for himself. May we, however, be people who are rich toward God and generous toward those around us.

TODAY: Serving others is one of the best ways to be generous and steward what God has given you. Consider serving opportunities right here at Ada Bible. Sign up to serve [here](#).

Day 4 [Luke 12:19–21](#) | God Rich

"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:21

Jesus tells the story of the rich fool and closes it with a stark warning: things do not end well for the man who thinks only of himself and hoards his abundance. This man has more grain than he will ever need, but less time than he realizes. God calls him to account that very moment. The warning is clear: God's people are not to live as owners, but as managers who see every blessing and gift as coming from him. Rather than being consumed with this world and the things that will pass away, God's people are to be rich toward him.

God has richly blessed us, but we are not meant to keep it all to ourselves. Rather, we are to reflect the heart of our generous God and extend that same blessing to others. Paul gives a similar charge to wealthy believers in Ephesus, urging them "...not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God..." ([1 Timothy 6:17](#)). To hope in God means placing our confidence and trust in him, rather than in riches, resources, or anything else this world offers. This is our challenge today, too. Living in an affluent culture, the real question is not how much we have, but where our hope lies—in him, or in our stuff. That question reveals the true orientation of our hearts.

TODAY: Ask God to reorient your heart toward him. Pray that he would help you fight off greed, delight in his presence, and give generously with your time and money to those around you. As you pray, affirm these truths by singing along with our worship team to "[Be Thou My Vision](#)."



Day 5 [1 Samuel 1:1–20](#) | Hannah's Prayer of Lament

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. August's focus is Lament: bringing our grief and struggle honestly to God.

In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. 1 Samuel 1:10

Hannah pours out her heart to God. She is vulnerable and raw before him, desperately asking for a child. She could keep on with her life, mustering up the energy to pretend everything is fine, but instead, she takes a posture before God that expresses her heart's truest longing. She is brokenhearted and longs for the Lord to bless her with a child. In her culture, childlessness isn't only heartbreak—it carries shame, a silent accusation that something is wrong with her or that God has withheld his favor. So, in response, Hannah slips away to the temple to offer a prayer. Her prayer becomes a lament, the kind of raw, honest cry to God that fills entire chapters of the Psalms.

We may not sit in Hannah's exact seat, but we know her ache. We carry our own version of desperate longing. Perhaps you face a marriage that feels lonely, a diagnosis that won't go away, a child who's wandered from faith, or a career that never took off. Like Hannah, we can feel the sharp sting of comparison when someone else seems to have what we want, whether it's a friend's growing family, a coworker's promotion, or a sibling's easier life. It's tempting to mask our pain with a smile and push through. But Hannah shows us a better way. She brings her unmet longing directly to God, trusting that he can handle her grief and her hope.

TODAY: Ask God to reveal the places that need his healing, comfort, and presence. Bring this honestly before God, knowing he is with you through the deepest pains you face.