Parables are simply stories that are told to show religious, moral or philosophical principles. They provide simple comparisons of things that naturally occur. The use of parables by Jesus are the keys to life, righteousness, holiness, balance and ultimately the keys to the Kingdom. The people, places, things, and situations reveal a temporal truth… but more than that they represent an eternal spiritual reality.

PARABLE	MATTHE	MARK	LUKE	John
Lamp Under a Basket	**5:14-16**	**4:21,22**	**8:16,17**	
.	**.**	**.**	**11:33-36**	
Bread of life				**6:31-38**
A Wise Man Builds on Rock	**7:24-27**	**.**	**6:47-49**	
and a Fool on Sand	**.**	**.**	**.**	
New Cloth on and Old	**9:16**	**2:21**	**5:36**	
New Wine in Old Wineskins	**9:17**	**2:22**	**5:37,38**	
The Sower	**13:3-23**	**4:2-20**	**8:4-15**	
The Tares (Weeds)	**13:24-30**	**.**	**.**	
The Mustard Seed	**13:31,32**	**4:30-32**	**13:18,19**	
The Leaven	**13:33**	**.**	**13:20,21**	
The Hidden Treasure	**13:44**	**.**	**.**	
The Pearl of Great Price	**13:45,46**	**.**	**.**	
The Dragnet	**13:47-50**	**.**	**.**	
The Good shepherd				**10:1-18**
The Householder	**13:52**	**.**	**.**	
The Lost Sheep	**18:12-14**	**.**	**15:3-7**	
The Unforgiving Servant	**18:23-35**	**.**	**.**	
The Workers in the Vineyard	**20:1-16**	**.**	**.**	
The Two Sons	**21:28-32**	**.**	**.**	
The Wicked Tenants	**21:33-45**	**12:1-12**	**20:9-19**	
The Wedding Feast	**22:2-14**	**.**	**14:16-24**	

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The Fig Tree	**24:32-44**	**13:28-32**	**21:29-33**	
The Ten Virgins	**25:1-13**	**.**	**.**	
The Talents / The Minas (Pounds)	**25:14-30**	**.**	**19:11-27**	
The Growing Seed	**.**	**4:26-29**	**.**	
The Watchful Porter	**.**	**13:33-37**	**.**	
The Creditor and Two	**.**		**7:41-43**	
The Good Samaritan	**.**		**10:30-37**	
A Friend in Need	**.**		**11:5-13**	
The Rich Fool	**.**		**12:16-21**	
The Faithful and Wise	**.**		**12:35-40**	
Faithful and Wicked Steward	**24:45-51**		**12:42-48**	
The Barren Fig Tree			**13:6-9**	
The Lowest Seat			**14:7-11**	
Building a Tower and Making War			**14:25-35**	
The Lost Coin			**15:8-10**	
The Lost Son			**15:11-32**	
The Shrewd Manager			**16:1-13**	
The Rich Man and Lazarus			**16:19-31**	
Unprofitable Servants			**17:7-10**	
The Persistent Widow			**18:1-8**	
The Pharisee and the Tax Collector			**18:9-14**	
Vine and branches				**15:1-17**

Luke 12: 16-21 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." '

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"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life 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."

Lets start with a little game of Fact or Fiction:

- I pulled my self up by my own boot straps. - Fiction
  Fact: The boots were given to you, the straps were not your own and the strength to pull them up did not come from you.
- All that I have is mine. - Fiction
  Fact: All that you have belongs to God.
- I will take it to the grave with me.
  Fact: it can be put in the casket, but when you get to wherever you are going it will not be there to meet you.

Just a short take on the facts and the fictions that we often times tell ourselves. There are clear distinctions between fact and fiction, even in the word of God we find some of our beliefs of fact to be fiction and some of our beliefs of fiction to be facts. It is the job of the disciples and students of the Word to wade through it all and provide a balanced understanding of what Jesus was talking about. This is one of the parables that can cause us to question our fact and our fiction. Because in the ethos of preaching, there are conflicting arguments. There is the prosperity preaching and there is the poverty preaching.

Prosperity: accumulate the wealth that you may give it out as you see fit to bless those around you. And you are entitled to be partakers of the wealth that God has given you.

Poverty: wealth is not for accumulating, everything that you have should be put back into the coffers, and you are to live at a level that does not appear excessive. Live like the people you minister too.

I am neither of these, I try my best to preach a balanced gospel that takes into account the earth realm that we live in and at the same time a spiritual realm, with the understanding that both are controlled by a sovereign God that can and will do great big things.

There are systemic problems with each of these schools of thought, and a closer look at scripture will reveal, that there is a middle ground that is often times forgotten. In reality the parable is not about rich not poor, it all the more about greed.

"The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop."

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Ground: Good ground is inferred, but the all we find here is ground. This points us to the fact that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Any seed that is sown, it is only by the power and provision of God that it grows. Just because you plant it does not mean that it will grow.
Rich Man: before the harvest this man was already wealthy. This is a point that is often times missed in the story. We seemingly act as though that this is not the fact. We have to recognize this fact to understand the issues and moral that are prevalent in this parable.
Good Crop: Blessed in abundance.

“He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

What was wrong about the rich man's attitude?

One problem is evident from the beginning “He thought to himself” as the people of God all of our decision making ought to go through God. Paul tells us that we should let this mind be in us that was also in Christ Jesus. Our decision making should be done in conjunction with God. The second issue is comes in “This is what I’ll do”. Again as blood bought, sanctified, and saved persons professing Jesus the Christ our decision making ought to come through the mind of God. The last item that I want to discuss is he says to himself “Take life easy”, nothing in scripture points to taking life easy. You cannot GO into the uttermost parts of the world taking it easy, standing for Jesus is not easy, walking in the ways of God are not easy. God tells us in the beginning, after the fall that man would have to work by the sweat of his brow.

When you have extra time, money, or resources, what do you tend to spend them on?
What would you do if you were rich?
Are you rich?
Have you thought about retirement?

But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life 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."

What should our ideal purpose in life be?

What does it mean to be rich toward God?

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