

THE FARMER'S LAST HARVEST

The Satisfied Farmer

Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops."¹ This farmer had obviously worked very hard, and was now satisfied that it had all been worthwhile. The early mornings, long days and exposure to inclement weather had all taken their toll. But now, as he surveyed the results of what had been accomplished, he felt satisfied.

The Farmer's Plans for the Future

He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"'²

The Farmer's Foolishness

He was making preparations for a long, comfortable life, but had made no preparations at all concerning his death. Obviously, he expected to live for many years. So even if he realised his need to get right with God, he probably felt there was no urgency. He would put it off until a later date. There was still plenty of time. Or so he thought!

Who said this Farmer was Foolish? GOD DID!

'But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'³ Time had run out, and now it was too late. He would never see another harvest or the new barns he had planned to build. He would never again hold a farm implement in his hands or walk through his fields. What lay ahead of him now was death, the grave, judgement and a future for which he had made no preparations.

Did you Know?

What God said to this farmer has implications for us all! We read in the Bible – 'No one can live forever; all will die. No one can escape the power of the grave.'⁴ And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment.⁵ None of us can hold back our spirit from departing. None of us has the power to prevent the day of our death. There is no escaping that obligation, that dark battle. And in the face of death, wickedness will certainly not rescue the wicked'.⁶

Funeral of the Foolish

Tomorrow, various religious ministers will be standing at the gravesides of many foolish people, saying, "May he/she rest in peace." Some of those who will be buried tomorrow are people who, just like the foolish farmer, had great plans and aspirations for the future, but had neglected to make preparations for eternity. They will have left behind their plans, their possessions and the people they loved. When they woke up yesterday morning they had no idea that their next appointment was with the undertaker and then the gravedigger. But even before their bodies were laid in the grave their souls will have already been judged and sent to their eternal abode.

Are you like the Foolish Farmer?

Friend, you have no guarantee that you will be alive tomorrow! Today God gives you the opportunity to reach out to Him by faith and to trust Him to save you from the penalty for sin, which is conscious, everlasting punishment in Hell. But perhaps you are like the foolish farmer who believed he would live for many years? Maybe you feel there is plenty of time left, and that perhaps at a later date you will consider your spiritual condition? But what if time runs out? What a tragedy if God were to say to you today, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?'

A Cry for Forgiveness

One of the thieves who was crucified with Jesus realised that time was running out, so he did not hesitate to avail of the last opportunity he would ever have to get right with God. 'Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.'

A Saviour for Sinners

'And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.'" The Saviour was suffering and dying on the cross for the sins of all who, like the thief, will cry to Him for mercy. Sinners can be saved from eternal damnation by believing that the penalty for the guilt of their sins was paid in full when Jesus suffered and died upon the cross as their substitute and sin bearer. Just before He died, Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit'. He had purchased eternal redemption for all who will repent of their sins and put their faith in Him. The Saviour's body was buried, but three days later He rose from the dead. He is alive **TODAY**, and is seated at His Father's right hand in Heaven, as the **ONLY** mediator between God and man.

Forgiveness for You

Friend, if you have not yet repented of your sins and asked the Lord to forgive you and to save you, may I encourage you to do so **TODAY**? 'Seek the LORD while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near'.

Invitation

Jesus says, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

Could it be that the Lord is knocking on the door of your heart today?
Will you invite Him in?

Do not delay, 'For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you. Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation'.

Scripture References:

1: Luke 12 v. 16

4: Psalm 89 v. 48

7: Luke 12 v. 20

10: John 19 v. 30

2: Luke 12 vs. 17-19

5: Hebrews 9 v. 27;

8: Luke 23 v. 42

11: Isaiah 55 v. 6

13: 2 Corinthians 6 v. 2

3: Luke 12 v. 20

6: Ecclesiastes 8 v. 8

9: Luke 23 v. 43

12: Revelation 3 v. 20

