

MOOREBANK – HAMMONDVILLE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR REFLECTION
The Rich Fool

1. Why do you think greed has been numbered amongst the ‘seven deadly sins’?
2. Greed or covetousness, features regularly in Scripture – think of the ten commandments (Ex 20:17), Elijah’s assistant Gehazi (2 Kings 5:20-27), Judas Iscariot and his thirty pieces of silver, Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11) or Paul’s warnings to Timothy (1 Tim 6:1-10). Does it surprise you that Jesus specifically tells us to watch out / be on your guard against covetousness? Why / why not?
3. Read Mark 7:21-22. Is the problem located wealth or possessions? Is it possible to be a poor person and a greedy person?

Read Luke 12:13- 21

4. In v13 someone makes a reasonable sounding request of an esteemed teacher. Does Jesus answer surprise you?
5. ‘Take care, be on your guard’. In you walk, what things do you tend to be ‘on guard’ against? Is greed usually one of them? Why / Why not?
6. The lie of greed is ‘If I only had that, then I’d be happy’. What does Jesus mean when he says ‘one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions’?
7. In the parable of the rich fool – why is this man not heralded as a visionary, industrious and capable land holder? In v16 to 19 who is the person who features prominently? Who is absent?
8. Look at v19. Where is his joy, his satisfaction and security located? Where is his life? In his greed, how has broken the first commandment? (Ex 20:3)?
9. Look at v20-21. Our life is found in God and belongs to him. The antidote to greed cannot be forsaking stuff, that leaves our heart unchanged. Jesus says it is ‘being rich toward God’. What do you think he means?
10. ‘The issue is not what you possess but what possesses you’ (author Mark Hedges) Discuss. How can we help each other to find our joy, security and life in God rather than being enslaved to our stuff?