

LUKE 12: 13 - 21



<sup>13</sup>A man in a crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of what our father left us when he died."

<sup>14</sup>Jesus answered, "Who gave me the right to settle arguments between you and your brother?"

<sup>15</sup>Then he said to the crowd, "Don't be greedy! Owning a lot of things won't make your life safe."

<sup>16</sup>So Jesus told them this story: A rich man's farm produced a big crop, <sup>17</sup>and he said to himself, "What can I do? I don't have a place large enough to store everything."

<sup>18</sup>Later, he said, "Now I know what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods. <sup>19</sup>Then I'll say to myself, 'You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'"

<sup>20</sup>But God said to him, "You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?"

<sup>21</sup>"This is what happens to people who store up everything for themselves, but are poor in the sight of God."

### You need:

- 2 medium sized empty see through jars.
- 3 packets (or at least more than will fit in the jar) of Jelly Beans.
- A large number of Lima beans. Write one word of the text of Luke 12:13-21 on each one (that will take 188- so you might want to divide this preparation task among your team). Add other 'blanks' to make more than will fit in the jar.
- A large number of boxes of different sizes. Write one word of Luke 12:15 "Owning a lot of things won't make your life safe" on each box.

### You say

Hi. I've got a few things that I need to store. And I'm wondering if there are some people here who can give me a hand?

First, I've got this supply of Jelly Beans that need to be stored in this jar. Could Team One manage that over here.

I also have supply of Lima beans. And it's really important for me to store all of them as well. I've got a jar here for that too. Team Two, can you work on that for me? Great. And lastly I've got this stack of boxes, they're out in the foyer, but I need them brought in. I've got a lot of storage issues at home so I need them all brought in. Team Three, can you help with that?

Let's go!

(As the 3 groups work on the tasks, the presenter moves between groups and keeps up a running commentary, moving from group to group, highlighting the action that is happening.

Each of the containers is too small for the quantity that is supplied. Keep up the expectation that they will fit everything in. If the suggestion that a larger container is required emerges, let that come out, and say you'll think about it, but you don't have a bigger container.

After a couple of minutes stop the teams to see the result.

The boxes form a wall with Luke 12:15 'Owning a lot of things won't make your life safe'.

### You say

Let's look at Team One, how did you go. They wouldn't fit? Anyone got a solution? I could get a bigger jar, or I could give the extra Jelly Beans away. Hmm. I think I have to think about that.

Now Team Two with the Lima beans. This one's really important because written on the Lima beans is a story from the Bible that I want to read and remember – from Luke 12. But they didn't fit either! How shall I remember this story? (Take suggestion, that it's in the Bible. Display passage on screen.)

Would you look at that? This is the story that's on my Lima beans.

Let's read it together. (Read: congregation can join on B or G words.)

### Wrap up

Uh oh. I knew I needed to read that story for a reason! I've been just like that rich man. But as always Jesus has a much better way. If what I have is over-flowing, God's way is to give it away.

So, how shall I do that?

Everyone can have a Jelly Bean! And the Lima beans can be used for a craft activity during the sermon. The Boxes: Well, I think I might leave them here with their message for a little longer.