

The Gospel Unashamed

"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half-truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

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~ All articles are written by Terry Carter unless otherwise stated ~

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Not All Fools are Rich

For the last year or so, I have been watching various people on YouTube who do book reviews. I find it helpful when deciding what books I want to read, and sometimes, the thoughts that they share are quite interesting.

One woman made several videos that I found especially interesting. She was obviously a very intelligent, well-spoken, and well-read individual. Her thoughts on the books she reviewed were insightful and useful. At the start of this year, I watched a video that she had made to discuss the books she planned to read in 2024. She was obviously looking forward to continuing her hobby of reading in the new year.

About a week and a half into this new year, I received quite a shock when one of her new videos came up in my recommended section that was less than a minute long. (Her videos were usually twenty to thirty minutes long.) It was simply titled "In Memory". It showed her picture with a note her mother wrote to announce that she had passed away just a week before of unknown causes.

I really do not know anything about this woman's personal life. I had the impression that she was single, and the information on the video showed that she had just turned thirty-one in December. I doubt that I will ever hear anything as to why she died so suddenly and unexpectedly.

When I recovered from the shock of this news, I could not help thinking

about the parable Jesus told about the rich fool. Specifically, the unexpected nature of the rich man's death.

"16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 'And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 'So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 'And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" 20 "But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' 21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." **Luke 12:16-21 (NKJV)**

The problem for the man in this parable was that he counted on money instead of God. He spent all his time laying up treasures on earth to enjoy in the future when he had no future here.

What struck me after the death of this woman, was that many people are very much like the rich fool without being rich. They are not distracted by riches, but they are distracted by their hobbies.

Although I do not know anything about the young woman who died, I doubt that she was rich or put her trust in riches. I have no idea whether she was religious at all. But I do know that she had plans for her future,

although, unknown to her, she had no future on this earth. Her plans were not about riches, they were about her hobby of reading. There is nothing wrong with having a hobby, just like there is nothing wrong with riches. In fact, reading is usually a very healthy hobby, at least for your mind.

There is nothing wrong with making plans for the future either. While most of us have no idea how much longer we will live, we must plan as though we will be here for some time yet. To make no plans at all is surely foolish. I have my own plans for what books to read this year. That is healthy and practical.

However, any plans that we make need to take God into consideration. The rich farmer focused on his treasure to the exclusion of God, he was never able to enjoy his treasure.

When we focus on our hobbies to the exclusion of God, we may not even get to enjoy our hobbies. A Christian will plan in such a way that if they live, they serve Christ, and, if they die, they go to be with Him. Either way, Christ is glorified, and we are wise rather than foolish. This is what Paul did.

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." **Philippians 1:21 (NKJV)**

Unfortunately, there are many fools who are not rich. Their focus is simply on their hobbies and interests. They put all their efforts into this world without thinking about how temporary our time here really is.

Whether or not this woman on YouTube was wise regarding God, I do not know.

My sincere hope is that she was wise and prepared to meet the Lord. Either way, I hope we can all learn something from her sudden death - **plan for tomorrow but be prepared to die tonight.**

When you think about the parable of the rich fool, remember that not all fools are rich. Whether you are rich or not, do not die a fool.