



THE STORY OF THE RICH FOOL

Look, two pieces of cake. If I was going to let you choose one bit of cake would you choose the piece Mark's got, or would you choose the bit James has got? What do you reckon, the smaller bit, or the larger bit? I think I would like the larger bit too: the more cake the better. OK, well those two bits of cake remind me of a story of a boy and a girl called Jessica and Will.

One day Jessica and Will came home from school and they wanted a snack. Their mother had baked a cake in the week and there was just enough for each of them to have a slice.

"Let's have a bit of cake" said Will "I'll get the cake while you get us a glass of milk." Will sliced the cake; he cut it into two slices but one slice was much larger than the other slice. Jessica poured each of them a glass of milk and sat down at the table. Will brought the cake and placed the small piece in front of Jessica and kept the large slice for himself.

"Look what you've done" said Jessica, "you gave me the small piece of cake and you kept the big bit of cake for yourself."

"Well, how would you have done it?" Will asked.

"If I was serving the cake" said Jessica, "I would have given you the large slice, and kept the small bit for myself."

"What are you complaining about then," he said. "That's exactly what I did do." And Will and Jessica both laughed, and began eating their cake.

You might laugh at that story, but selfishness and greed are very serious subjects. What do you think it means to be selfish?

"Take every thing for yourself" very good, that's right. And what about greed?

"You eat and eat and eat" Yes, you might be greedy for food.

"You want everything" Yes that's right; you might think everything is for you.

Every day we see people who don't only want the biggest slice of cake, but they want everything, which is what you were saying. And Jesus told a story about a man who was exactly like that. The man in Jesus' story was very rich and he had a large farm which produced some very good crops.

"What should I do?" the man said to himself. "I've such a large harvest, I don't have any more room in my barns to store my crops." So what do you think the man did?

"He gave some away?" Do you think he gave some away?

"He shared it with other people." Do you think he shared some with other people? No, he kept it all for himself; he didn't share it at all. He could have shared some of what he had with those who didn't have very much, but instead, he said to himself,

“I know what I’m going to do; I’m going to pull down my barns, and build bigger ones. Then I will say to myself, ‘You have plenty of everything. Enjoy it. Eat, drink and be merry.’”

And that’s what he did. But do you know what God said to that man? “You fool! You silly person. You will die this very night, then who will get everything?”

Now, as we know, God is very good, and most of us have more than we need. But the question is, what will we do with what God has given to us? So when we think about all our clothes, all our food, all our money; will we share it with those who don’t have as much, or will we keep it greedily for ourselves? And remember the warning that Jesus gave in the story, watch out, be on your guard because you never know what is going to happen tomorrow.

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