

# Luke 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

## Analysis

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**And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?** The Greek dialogizomai (διελογίζετο, he thought within himself) suggests internal debate or reasoning—six times in this brief parable the man uses first-person pronouns ("I," "my"), revealing radical self-centeredness. The phrase **within himself** (ἐν ἑαυτῷ, en heauto, ἐν ἑαυτῷ) emphasizes solitary deliberation—no consultation with God, no consideration of community needs, no thought of covenant obligations to the poor.

His question, **What shall I do?** (Τί ποιήσω, Tí poiesō) ironically echoes the rich young ruler's question (Luke 18:18), but with inverted priorities. Where the ruler sought eternal life, this man seeks only storage capacity. The phrase **I have no room where to bestow my fruits** reveals the problem: his existing infrastructure cannot contain God's blessing. Rather than seeing abundance as opportunity for generosity, he views it as a storage problem. The possessive my fruits (τοὺς καρποὺς μου) betrays his mindset—he claims ownership of what God gave (v. 16).

## Historical Context

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Ancient Palestinian barns (ἀποθήκαι, apothēkai) were typically underground pits or above-ground structures where grain was stored after threshing. Storage was crucial for surviving between harvests and maintaining wealth. However, the Torah commanded against hoarding: "At the end of every seven years thou shalt make a release" (Deuteronomy 15:1), and gleaning laws required leaving portions for the

poor (Leviticus 19:9-10). The rich man's obsession with expanding storage violates the spirit of generosity commanded in the Law. His failure to consult God contrasts with Solomon, who sought divine wisdom for leadership (1 Kings 3:5-14).

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How often do your internal deliberations include conversation with God rather than merely self-consultation?
2. When God blesses you with abundance, is your first thought preservation or distribution?
3. What does the frequency of first-person pronouns in this parable reveal about the relationship between selfishness and spiritual death?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	διελογίζετο	ἐν	ἑαυτῷ	λέγων,	Τί	ποιήσω	ὅτι
And	he thought	within	himself	saying	What	shall I do	because
G2532	G1260	G1722	G1438	G3004	G5101	G4160	G3754
οὐκ	ἔχω	ποῦ	συνάξω	τοὺς	καρπούς	μου	
no	I have	room where	to bestow	G3588	fruits	my	
G3756	G2192	G4226	G4863		G2590	G3450	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 58:7** (Parallel theme): Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

**Matthew 5:42** (Parallel theme): Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

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