



LIVING THE GOSPEL

**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time.
August 3rd 2025**

Theme: "Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns"

Gathering Prayer

All: Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Exploring the Word

Gospel Reading: Luke 12: 13-21

¹³ A man in the crowd said to him, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance'. ¹⁴ 'My friend,' he replied-'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' ¹⁵ Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs'.

¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, ¹⁷ thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." ¹⁸ Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, ¹⁹ and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time".

²⁰ But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" ²¹ So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

Gospel Focus

Jesus' words still ring true all these years later; the human tendency to hoard wealth has not gone away. Amassing resources gives us an illusion of control and a feeling of security. However, control and security are not what God wants for us. They quickly become idols, leaving us feeling self-sufficient rather than putting our trust in God. In addition, as Jesus points out, our possessions do not last beyond this life. They do not come with us when we pass into the next one. We ought to be practicing detachment, regularly letting go of things, so that we can make more space in our lives and in our hearts for God to come in.

Gospel Reflection

The gospel today shows us in parable form what the “greed that is idolatry” looks like. The rich man with the bountiful harvest is shown to be isolated, oblivious of both God and his fellow human beings. His soliloquy reveals his self-centeredness. Rather than consult those whose lives are intertwined with his, he asks himself, “What shall I do ...I do not have space... I shall tear down ...I share store...I shall say to myself....” The focus of his reflection is “my harvest...my barns...my grain....myself.”

In a world of limited good, his solution is shocking: he will tear down his barns and build bigger ones, where he will stockpile his goods for many years. First century Palestinians did not operate within a system of capitalism. There was no expectation that all could keep getting richer. They considered all goods limited, so that if one person acquired more, it necessarily meant that others went without. Hoarding, for them, was a clear sign of greed, the vice most destructive to community life.

The rich man’s self-centered plans for stockpiling and spending for his own enjoyment is interrupted by a startling apparition of God, the only such divine intervention in a gospel parable. “you fool” comes the accusation, with the notice that this very night his ‘life will be demanded.” The critical question is, “All the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?” The clear biblical answer comes from Psalm 24:1: “The earth is the Lord and all it holds, / the world and those who dwell in it.” Everything belongs to God: even life itself is given to us on loan. In the end the greedy man has no benefit from all he has acquired, and his heirs will be left haggling over it.

The parable also hints at how the miserly man will meet his end. If Jesus was addressing this parable to peasants, those backbreaking labor did not result to their own benefit but only increased the riches of the landowner, their answer to the question of ownership would have a different ring. Would not the land and its fruits, which come from the toil, belong to them? Is it the peasant workers who, in an uprising, are demanding the life of the rich man?

The parable cuts two ways. To those who are blessed with abundance, hard questions are posed about legitimate use, greediness, and just distribution of resources for the common good. To those on the underside of privilege, there is encouragement to take action to unmask vicious greed and to engage in efforts to bring about economic justice, while heeding an implicit warning that violence and killing are futile means for achieving just ends.

Old/New Testament and CCC links

First Reading – Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

² Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

^{2:21} because sometimes a man who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by a man who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What has a man from all the toil and strain with which he toils beneath the sun?

²³ For all his days are full of pain, and his work is a vexation; even in the night, his mind does not rest. This also is vanity.

Responsorial Reading - Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17

R: If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (R)

You turn man back to dust, saying, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday, now that it is past, or as a watch of the night. **(R)**

You make an end of them in their sleep; the next morning they are like the changing grass, which at dawn springs up anew, but by evening wilts and fades. **(R)**

Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on your servants! **(R)**

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness, that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days. And may the gracious care of the Lord our God be ours; prosper the work of our hands for us! Prosper the work of our hands! **(R)**

Second Reading – Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hid with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ... ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

Catechism of The Catholic Church

549. By freeing some individuals from the earthly evils of hunger, injustice, illness and death, (Cf. Jn 6:5-15; Lk 19:8; Mt 11:5) Jesus performed messianic signs. Nevertheless he did not come to abolish all evils here below, (Cf. Lk 12 13-14; Jn 18:36.) but to free men from the gravest slavery, sin, which thwarts them in their vocation as God's sons and causes all forms of human bondage. (Cf. Jn 8:34-36.)

Sharing and Discussion

1. How does this parable expose our tendency to rely on our own plans and sense of security? In what ways does it prompt us to reflect on the fragility of life and the importance of living humbly before God?
2. In a world that often equates success with wealth and achievement, how does this parable challenge the way we spend our money, use our time, and determine what truly matters each day?
3. Where in your life do you sense growth in the things that matter most to God? Are there areas where He might be inviting you to go deeper?

Closing Prayer

All: O God, you alone are holy. Hear our prayers and petitions this day and may the work of our hands be always directed to your purpose. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.