

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 31, 2016**

ENCOUNTERING CHRIST'S WORD



Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke 12:13-21

A person's life does not consist of possessions.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,
"Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me."
He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?"
Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though
one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

Then he told them a parable.
"There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest.
He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my
harvest?'
And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build
larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods
and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things
stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"

But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you;
and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?'
Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in
what matters to God."

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COMMENTARY OF THE DAY

In Chapter 12 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples and the crowd on how to be ready for the coming judgment. A crowd of many thousands has gathered to hear Jesus. At first he speaks only to the disciples, reminding them that it is not persecution they should fear but the judgment that is coming for all who do not acknowledge the Son of Man. Suddenly a man in the crowd shouts out to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." He seems to have grown tired of Jesus speaking only to the disciples. Jesus offers the man no help. Instead he uses the question to teach what, in light of the coming judgment, life really consist of.

Jesus tells the crowd a parable. A rich man's lands have yielded more crops than expected. His response is not to consider how he might share all the extra food with others but to wonder how he can possibly store it all. He has what he thinks is a brilliant idea: to tear down his present barns and build larger ones. Then he will have many things stored up for years of eating, drinking, and making merry.

"You fool" is God's response to this man because that very night his life will be taken away. To whom will everything belong then, God asks. The rich man's world is small, just him and his possessions, and now he learns that he is to lose his life. What good are his possessions now? Jesus states the moral of the story. This is how it will be for

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everyone who stores up treasure for himself or herself but is not rich in what matters to God.

Centuries later St. Gregory the Great taught that when we care for the needs of the poor, we are giving them what is theirs, not ours. We are not just performing works of mercy; we are paying a debt of justice. Life does not consist in possessions but in sharing what we possess with others. The goods of the earth have been given to everyone.

*The rich man in the story does not seem like a bad man; in fact, he seems like a smart businessman. Jesus, however, points out that this man's flaw was that he was thinking only about himself and his own comfort and security. When we fail to think about the needs of others, we call that a sin of omission. Each time we go to Mass, we ask forgiveness for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. We call this prayer the **Confiteor** (I Confess to Almighty God...).*



Lasallian Value in Action:
Contribute to the community...
Think less of yourself!

MASS SCHEDULE AT THE OUR LADY OF THE STAR CHAPEL

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
= 7:40 AM (Grade 6 Class Mass)
Tuesday = 7:45 AM (Grade 4 Batch Mass)

Sources:
dailygospel.org
www.loyolapress.com