**18th Sunday Ordinary Time. Cycle. C. 2025**

*(Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 2:21-23; Colossians 3: 1-5, 9-11 Lk: 12: 13-21*).

 **For the first century Jews there was no defined doctrine of Resurrection**- no accepted understanding how God would punish evil or reward the good. Instead, many looked for God’s approval or disapproval in this life. Those who lived long lives and had material blessings and lots of children, were seen as favored by God. Based upon this fact, the rich land owner in Todays’ Gospel would have been seen by the crowd as favored by God. But for Jesus this mindset is the very antithesis of what life is about.

**The Book of Ecclesiastes** reminds us that success and wealth are temporary. **In Today’s Gospel, the** rich man built barns for his abundance- but neglected others and failed to see that his soul was his greatest asset. Jesus warns against hoarding what cannot fill us eternally, urging us to invest in what lasts: **love, service, generosity, and faith**- what it means to be “**rich towards God”.**

 The only voice the rich man hears is his own and it is full **of self-concern and materialism**. Jesus goes to the heart of the matter and says, “***take care to guard against all greed, one’s life does not consist of possessions***”. That’s a powerful and surprising response, “***one’s life does not consist of possessions”***. In a world like ours, driven by consumption, that is a hard lesson to learn because we are constantly being prompted to buy and accumulate things. There is a tendency today to see the greatest good in life as that of maximizing our own wealth and our own pleasure. Hence, Jesus is calling us to look more deeply **at the purpose of our life**. Greedy acquisition of wealth and power is futile because everything and everyone is here today and gone tomorrow. Hence we must always reflect on the brevity of life- what truly matters when time is short.

 **The man in the Gospel parable** is condemned because he had allowed his heart to be dominated by **riches *and has* given himself over to idolatry-** the idolatry of greed and self-worship. Now idolatry may seem a strange word to our modern ears and yet it is alive for many in our world. We may not worship the ancient gods, but there are many who worship the modern **ones of wealth**, **power and ple**asure, and have thus neglected the one true God to the sidelines.

What would we want people to remember about our life?...**A good Christian, a good father or mother, husband or wife, a priest or nun. Does our life build up the kingdom of Christ? Does it strengthen Christ’s Church**”? On a deeper level, when we appear before the Lord, what are the spiritual assets we bring before him? St. Pauls’ powerful charge in today’s Second Reading- the greed that is idolatry” challenges us to direct our attention to seek heavenly treasures.

Putting God first is not about devaluing money and things. We are to see them as tools in our lives and not the center of our lives**. “*Seek to hold and not to cling, enjoy and not possess. Greed city may be a good nice place to visit, but we cannot live there fo*rever”. Gr**eed keeps us from being generous, and to be a Christian is to be generous. When we are greedy, we are choosing ourselves over God, **and that’s not a good choice.** So giving away, that’s’ a way to store up riches in heaven.

**What are the spiritual assets, the spiritual wealth, we are acquiring to bring before the Lord**. If, as with the man in Jesus’s parable, an accounting is required of us tonight or tomorrow or any other day, **what would we bring to the Lord?** Let us align our hearts with God’s Kingdom- where lasting riches lie.