

Homily Summary – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Overview

This homily reflects on Jesus' parable of the rich fool, who stores up earthly treasures but neglects to be "rich toward God." We are called to re-evaluate what truly matters in life. It challenges us to seek lasting meaning not in possessions, but in a life centered on God.

Key Points

- **Life without God feels empty.**
Ecclesiastes 1:2: "Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!" But Scripture does not mean life is meaningless. Rather, it warns that time is short and easily wasted on lesser things.
 - **Jesus' parable exposes misplaced priorities.**
In *Luke 12:19*, the rich man says to himself, "Rest, eat, drink, be merry." But God responds, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you" (*Luke 12:20*). The parable critiques living for worldly security alone, rather than for God.
 - **Greed is more than about money.**
Jesus warns, "Guard against all greed" (*Luke 12:15*), which includes any disordered desire that distracts from God—possessions, reputation, control, comfort.
 - **Heavenly-mindedness is essential.**
Colossians 3:1–2 reminds us: "Seek what is above... think of what is above, not of what is on earth." Living for Heaven begins now, and involves putting "to death... the greed that is idolatry" (*Colossians 3:5*).
 - **We must examine what we treasure.**
All blessings come from God, but even good things can become idols if they displace Him. When we die, "we don't get to pack a U-Haul and deliver everything to Heaven."
 - **God created us for Himself.**
The homily affirms CCC 27: "The desire for God is written in the human heart... man is created by God and for God." As St. Augustine said: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."
 - **Security without God is an illusion.**
True peace comes from surrendering to God's will. As *Colossians 3:4* promises: "When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory."
 - **Invitation to respond.**
Parishioners are invited to a screening of *Permission*, a film about Fr. Bob Bedard, who taught the power of giving God permission to lead our lives: "You lead. I will follow."
 - **Mary is our model.**
Though poor in worldly things, Mary was "rich in grace" because she said, "Let it be done to me according to your word" (*Luke 1:38*).
 - **God invites us into freedom.**
Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we can "open our hands" to let go of the treasures that do not last, and receive what only God can give.
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Key Scriptures

- *Ecclesiastes 1:2*: "Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!"
 - *Luke 12:15–21*: Parable of the rich fool
 - *Colossians 3:1–5*: "Seek what is above... Put to death... the greed that is idolatry"
 - *Luke 1:38*: "Let it be done to me according to your word"
 - *Matthew 5:3*: "Blessed are the poor in spirit"
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Catechism References

- CCC 27: "The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God..."
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Reflection Questions

1. What are the "barns" in my life? What am I storing up that may not last?
2. Do I ever define my worth by my possessions or accomplishments rather than my relationship with God?
3. Am I living as though this world is all there is, or am I preparing for eternity?
4. What would change if I gave God full permission to lead my life?
5. How can I follow Mary's example of saying yes to God with trust and humility?

Rhyme summary:

Ecclesiastes says, "All things are vain,"
That might be true if wealth was all we sought to gain.
Yet the psalmist pleads, "Lord, teach us to see,
How short our lives on earth will be."
Then Christ tell tales of barns and gold,
Yet when life runs out, those dreams can grow cold.
So seek most the things above, not down,
Then you'll walk the path to a Heavenly crown.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>