

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MONEY

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Introducing the Gospel

The rich fool (Luke 12: 13-21)

The parable of the rich fool illustrates how wealth and possessions can become a distraction from the things that really matter in life. The rich fool made the mistake of thinking that he owned a great deal and that, as a consequence, he was most secure. The truth of the matter was that he did not even own his own life. Later in verses 33 and 34 Jesus interprets the parable by exhorting his followers to build up treasure in heaven, for 'where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'.

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's parable concerning the rich fool is *money*.

Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 12: 16-20; for reflection throughout the week)

Then Jesus told them a parable:
'The land of a rich man produced abundantly.
And he thought to himself,
"What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?"'
Then he said, "I will do this:
I will pull down my barns and build larger ones,
and there I will store all my grain and my goods.
And I will say to my soul,
Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years;
relax, eat, drink, be merry."
But God said to him,
'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you.'

Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)

Lord Jesus Christ,
you teach your people
that wealth does not last forever.
Give us a proper attitude
toward our possessions,
that we may value the things that last;
for you are our God,
now and always.
Amen.

READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 12: 13-21

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?' And he said to them, 'Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.' Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

Dwelling with the text (Luke 12: 13-21)

Begin to explore Luke's parable concerning the rich fool by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

Thinking and talking

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Why should someone in the crowd expect Jesus to sort out his family problem?
- How do you read Jesus' warning against greed?
- Was the rich landowner being properly prudent?
- What should be our attitude toward possessions?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

Explore Luke's wider teaching on wealth.

- Luke 1: 51-53
- Luke 3: 10-14
- Luke 6: 24-26
- Luke 15: 11-13
- Luke 16: 19-24

Explore teaching on money from the Old Testament wisdom literature.

- Proverbs 3: 27
- Proverbs 6: 6-8
- Proverbs 10: 4
- Exodus 22: 25
- Ecclesiasticus 5: 10
- Ecclesiasticus 7: 12

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Exploring online

Widen your exploration of Luke's parable concerning the rich fool by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- The parable of the rich fool
- Biblical teaching on wealth
- History of money

Drawing on experience

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's parable concerning the rich fool is *money*. Draw on your own experience of money. For example:

- What have been your good experiences of money in life?
- What have been your bad experiences of money in life?
- What effects have you seen money have on the lives of others?

What have you learned about money?

Creating and making

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's parable concerning the rich fool or by the image of money.

- Create a collage including images and pictures of money.
- Make a poster relating the parable of the rich fool.
- Explore how your congregation balances income and expenditure.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Luke's parable of the rich fool or the image of money.



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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