

JULY 31, 2016



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ECCLESIASTES 1:2; 2:21-23

PSALM 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17

COLOSSIANS 3:1-5, 9-11

LUKE 12:13-21

REFLECTION

Do you have any friends or classmates who always make everything about themselves? Have you ever had the tendency to make it all about you? That's how the rich man in today's Gospel is. He makes it all about himself. He's got more food than he could ever need, but instead of worrying about how to feed people who are hungry, his dilemma is figuring out where to put it all! The words of this passage teach us a lesson. Jesus tells us that equating "richness" with material wealth is foolish. We can make all of the plans for our lives that we want, but we need to make sure that our plans are in line with God's plans for us. How often do you find yourself simply living for the here and now, and not taking into account where God wants you to be? Jesus is telling us here that life isn't just about accumulating material goods. We are created for so much more. Consider the role that material goods take in your life. If you found out that you were going to die tomorrow like the rich man did, what things in your life would start looking pretty foolish? What would start looking more important?

ACTION

Just for today, notice the miracles. Turn off your phone. Wake up early. Watch the sunrise. Hug your mom and dad. Think of your home, your family, and your friends. Savor the richness of your life. Clean up around the house without being asked. Consciously plug yourself into the flow of giving to others just for the sake of giving. Expect nothing, and just savor the joy of blessing others. Set aside some quiet time, and thank God for the overflowing blessings of the day.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- How can you give of yourself more to others?
- Where do you see yourself in five years? How can God help you be a person of positive change in the world?