



Daily Reflections

October 22, 2018

Scripture

Luke 12: 13-21

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.”

Our Scripture Reflection

If Jesus' response to the anonymous man in the crowd sounds pointed it's because it is. He is on the road to Jerusalem to give His life selflessly and sacrificially for His people. An expression of pure, sinful greed is the last thing He wants to hear. In response He tells a story about a rich man. Please note: Jesus never condemns a person for being rich. He calls into question the attitude of one's heart towards wealth and possessions. The man in Jesus' story has done incredibly well but he makes two terrible mistakes:

1. He speaks as though everything he has accomplished is strictly because of his own efforts. But what about God's goodness to him?
2. He cannot see beyond his super-sized barns where there exists the poor and destitute. He had the means to relieve their suffering but chose not to do so.

Because of his greed, all that he has will be taken away by the great equalizer....death.

Food for your Journey

John Stossel on Greed:

I think of greed as wanting too much, more than you need, wretched excess. By that definition, [the Vanderbilt mansion] is a monument to greed If Vanderbilt had a motto, it must have been "excess is barely enough." The house is gargantuan - 250 rooms. Yet it was all built for just one man to live in. This is the dining room. It's as high as a five-story building. The dining table seats 64. I guess when you're this rich, you make friends pretty easily. From here, you can take in the millions of dollars of art on the walls - Renoirs and Whistlers, Renaissance tapestries. Very beautiful, but isn't this greedy? Who needs a \$100 million house? Who deserves to have this much? Of course, Vanderbilt isn't the only person to have more than he needs Today, there's plenty of excess around.

Junk bond king Michael Milken paid himself more than \$500 million. Who needs that much? Hotel mogul Leona Helmsley, now a billionaire, sued to get the bulk of her late son's estate. That left his kids with less than \$500

each. Isn't there a name for someone like that? Former Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos took tax money from people who could barely afford food and then used it to buy lavish parties, this yacht and thousands of shoes. She needed them, she said, because she had to change clothes a lot. Haiti's even poorer. Yet while people here were starving, Haiti's rulers, the Duvaliers - they called him Baby Doc - lived in this palace and spent millions shopping... .

And the rich keep getting richer. Now to reach the top of the Forbes richest Americans list, you have to have billions. One of these billionaires, Ted Turner, says the magazine's ranking makes them want to get even richer: "You're on this list, you see, and you want to move up the list. You want to be number one. Nobody will ever catch Bill Gates. Warren Buffet isn't going to catch Bill Gates."

-John Stossel, "Greed," ABC News,

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, You are always so good to me. Everything that I am and all that I have is the result of Your generosity. I am not worthy, Lord. Fill my heart with humility and gratitude so that I may always give You the glory and assist those who are in need. Amen