August 4, 2019

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,

due to 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 all who store up treasure for themselves

but are not rich in what matters to God.”

---

**Our Scripture Reflection**

The wealthy man is a fool on two counts:
1. 6 times he uses the personal pronoun “I” as he boasts about his brilliance. He gives no credit to God nor does he express gratitude to Him for his good fortune.
2. He never once offers to share his abundant blessings with others. Tragically, death, the great equalizer, will make things right.

**Food for your Journey**

An interesting system has been used for capturing monkeys in the jungles of Africa. The goal is to take the monkeys alive and unharmed for shipment to zoos in America.
In an extremely humane way, the captors use heavy bottles, with long narrow necks, into which they deposit a handful of sweet-smelling nuts. The bottles are dropped on the jungle floor, and the captors return the next morning to find a monkey trapped next to each bottle.
How is it accomplished?
The monkey, attracted by the aromatic scent of the nuts, comes to investigate the bottle, grabs for the nuts, and is trapped. The monkey can’t take its hand out of the bottle as long it’s holding the nuts, but it is unwilling to open its hand and let them go. The bottle is too heavy to carry away, so the monkey is trapped.

**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, It is You Who provides me with all that I need in this life. You give me the most precious gifts of time, talent and faith. May I never miss an opportunity to praise You and to witness to Your providential care. Amen