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."
To appreciate our Gospel text we must, once again, take into account Luke 9:51 where Jesus had set His face to Jerusalem and began His journey to the city of destiny. Nothing would deter or distract Him from His mission to save us. So when a man from the crowd asked Him to adjudicate a family monetary dispute, Jesus will have nothing to do with it. Instead, He gives the crowd a lesson on the dangers of greed, especially in His use of the Parable of the Rich Fool.

Oh, how comfortable and smug the fool was. He was so full of himself in light of what “he” had accomplished. The man learned too late, unfortunately, that it was all for naught. Why? First of all, he gave himself, and only himself, credit for the abundant harvest. Second, He was only concerned about himself. He never looked over his own shoulders to see if he might have been of assistance to someone in need. The “me, myself and I” approach to life is dangerous for one’s hopes of eternal life.

Food for your Journey

Television journalist Ted Koppel was on a lucrative speech circuit for about 20 years. After he returned from a tour as a correspondent in Vietnam, in the mid-1960s, he began taking engagements at around $500 each; by the mid-1980s, because of his eminence as host of the TV show Nightline, the stakes had gone much higher, and he was able to command $50,000 per speech.

At this point, he did something that few prominent journalists would do: He stopped speaking for pay. Koppel says: "One day we reached this price that was so astronomically high that I went home and talked to my wife about it. I said that nobody out there who makes a normal salary is going to hear that amount, and realize that it was paid for a day's work -- to put it generously -- and believe that there wasn't something else that was being purchased for that price, beyond my time for a day .... Particularly since I am extremely well paid by ABC, I felt that it was easy for me, at least, to make the decision and say, 'Why run that risk of losing whatever credibility I have for the sake of something we don't need?'"

--James Fallows, Breaking the News:
How refreshing it is to see a person serve something besides money.

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, Please forth upon me the Grace of humility. May I always realize that I am nothing without You. May I always keep in mind that everything I have become and everything that I have is a gift from You meant to bring You glory. Amen