

## Rich towards God

### Luke 12.13-21

Someone asks Jesus to settle an argument he is having with his brother about sharing some property. Jesus says that this is not his job, but also warns people about being so concerned about collecting goods and becoming rich that they forget about being rich in God's eyes. Collecting things just for ourselves can get in the way of doing what pleases God.

Now read **Luke 12.13-21** see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Jesus told parables about people and places which people were familiar with. They could ask about the meaning if they wanted to know more about his teaching, or they could just take away the main point of the story. Do you think they would easily get the main point of this story?



Collect together some coins, ideally including some that are more unusual. Make coin rubbings by hold a piece of paper firmly on top of a coin and rubbing with a wax crayon. It may be easier if two people work together: one holds the coin and paper, the other does the rubbing. Cut out the coin rubbings to make a collection of paper money.



Read again this week's Bible story. Try to imagine what the life of the man in the story was like. Write a story, or draw a story board, about someone in today's world (or perhaps more than one person) who is so busy collecting more and more goods or money, that they have no time to do important things or think about God. Give the person (people) interesting names – you can probably think of something much better than Ivor Lotofstuff! Add as much details to the story as you can. Then read or show it to your friends or family.

# Give



What do you do with spare produce from your garden? Or books and toys that you no longer need? Or spare clothes? Could you perhaps set up a table outside your house and put your spare items on it for people to take to use – FREE. Or could you give some spare books or toys or other items to a local charity?

# COUNT

Collect together as many small value coins as you can. Put them together to make a long snake. Keep working at this for as many days as you can – or until you run out of space! Get friends involved to help you make the snake even longer. How many coins can you gather? When you have done this, could you bag up all the coins and give the money to a local charity collection?



What do you have in abundance? How do we become rich towards God?



Play a memory game. Choose a letter, then search the room (or the house) to find as many items as you can, beginning with that letter (set a time limit). You can do this individually, or as a group. Put all the items on a tray. Allow a short time for everyone to look at the items, then cover the tray with a cloth. Wait a few moments more, then write down or draw as many items as you can remember. Again, you could do this individually – see who wins! – or as a group working together. Check your list. What items were not remembered? Does this mean they are not needed? Thinking more broadly, do you have things that you don't really need? What could you do with them?

Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

**A** man in the crowd was upset. His father had died and his brother wasn't sharing his money. He said to Jesus, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.' Jesus asked, 'Who decided that I should be your judge? Watch out!' said Jesus. 'It's too easy to become greedy. The value of your life is not judged by the number of your possessions.'

Jesus told a parable to teach the crowd what he meant. 'A rich man owned a lot of land. It had good soil and the crops grew well. At harvest time the man had an abundance of corn – so much he didn't know where to put it all. 'What shall I do?' he thought. 'My barns aren't big enough. I know, I'll pull down my small barns and build bigger barns in their place. Then I can store all my grain.'

'When the rich man had built bigger barns and packed away all the grain, he said to himself, 'Aaaah. I can relax now. I have everything I need for years and years. I can enjoy life without worrying about a thing. I shall eat, drink and party!'



'But God said to the man, "You fool! You will die tonight. Who will get your wealth then? The treasure in those big barns isn't the sort of treasure you can bring with you when you come to meet me. I don't value your money. Being rich won't help you now! You need to be rich towards God."

Luke 12.13-21

## Did you know?

- The man had an abundance of corn – that is, enough for himself, with enough to share.

## Luke 12.13-21 (NRSV)

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.'