

Choose Life!

[Luke 12: 16-30](#), [Deuteronomy 8: 7-18](#)

“This is the life!”

Our church is a riot of colour and plenty this morning as we give thanks for our Harvest. From dahlias to hot dog sausages, mint to mushy peas, we are surrounded by symbols of God’s goodness, which we will delight in giving away to the Wirral Foodbank later. And this congregation is also a sign of God’s goodness, bringing us together and sending us out to be a riot of colour, life and joy to others.



If we hang on to these items around us for our own sole use, they will simply weigh down our shelves, rusting away quietly. These tins remind us that everything we have is not just for us to pile up and admire.

Our two Bible readings for today do not suggest that being able to grow crops and gain wealth are bad in themselves. Indeed, the ability to create fertile, well-managed land is a very good thing. It is a very difficult and complex process, and we continue to rely on the

skills of our farmers and their knowledge to enable us to enjoy the plentiful variety of food which we see in front of us.

The rich man in Jesus’ parable has become complacent, caught in a repetitive cycle in which he tears down barns only to build even bigger ones. He sees his future only in terms of the store of grain he has laid up for many years to come.

“Yes,” he says, “this is the life!”

But this is not a life which will last, even though the man thinks it will keep him going, living happily. All his hope is set on his achievements, living as if God didn’t exist. He rejoices in the gifts, but forgets who is the generous Giver of those gifts.



It’s easy to avoid the connection between the rich man and ourselves. Surely we wouldn’t be like him! We wouldn’t be so foolish as to choose this way of living!

Or would we...? The second portion of this reading cuts to something closer to home. Jesus is well aware of the anxieties of our lives. We share the same concerns and troubles as his first audience. We live within a model of scarcity, where we have to defend and build up our reserves, focusing on ourselves alone. What will I eat? What will I wear? These questions gnaw away at our deep-rooted sense of what it means to live in security.

Yet Jesus' love means that there is no need for fear. His economy of living is entirely sustainable, built on grace and trust. He presents us with a vision in which our needs are supplied in full, at just the right time, in just the right quantity. How far do I put my trust in that vision?

If we live to "set our hearts" on just meeting our own desires, we are doing exactly the same as the rich man in the parable, living a life in which God has no place, working to our own plan. Jesus calls us to set our compass differently, and to choose a life which will last.

This is a way of life which goes against the grain. Yet when we see the abundance around us, it reminds us of what we can do together, and also how important it is that we work in all the ways we can to help eradicate food poverty, both in our local community and globally. Let's set our hearts on sharing from the abundance of God's love for all of us.

Rev'd Vicky Barrett