

November 16, 2018

Greetings to all the Faithful of St. Andrews,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

The Gospel reading is from Luke 12:16-21. Here is the section in its entirety:

And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And 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; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The following words are intended to help situate this "Parable of the Rich Fool" in its context:

This reading is in the middle of a larger section (12:1-13:9) where a number of issues are dealt with: Jesus encourages his disciples to be watchful against hypocrisy (12:1-3), to fear God and not human beings (12:4-7), and to profess their faith in him (12:8-12). Then just before our Gospel reading for this week we read the following words:

"One of the multitude said to him [Jesus], 'Teacher, bid my brother divide the inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Man, who made me a judge or divider over you?' And he said to them, 'Take heed, and beware of all covetousness; for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'" (12:13-15).

It is in response to these words that Jesus gives this "Parable of the Rich Fool" (12:16-21). After this parable the Lord continues teaching on topics such as anxiety (12:22-34), on being watchful (12:35-48), on the end of the age (12:49-59), and finally on repentance (13:1-9). Repentance means to leave our attachment to false and untrue ways of living and turn toward God who forgives and provides us with all that we truly need. Let us turn our lives over to God and not ourselves. We cannot possibly care more for ourselves than God does.

The reading leaves us with at least one important question. Are we laying up "treasure" for *ourselves* or are we seeking to be "rich toward *God*"?

This Thursday, November 15, we begin the Christmas Fast. Please adjust your eating habits accordingly.

Also, this Saturday, November 17 at 10 am, St. Andrew's is having its first Men's Fellowship get-together. We invite all the men of our community to participate in this opportunity to get to know each other.

May God bless you in all you do for him,
Fr. Herman