

# +WEEKLY SERMON

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## Be rich towards God

*Luke 12:13-21: The Parable of the Rich Fool*

I wonder which of the following people, you think, made the wisest decision.

Was it wise of Peter and his fellow fishermen to leave the largest catch of fish they had ever made to follow Jesus? Surely, this catch would have enabled them to live comfortably for a long time?

Was the woman who had lived a sinful life a fool? In front of a room full of pharisees, she had anointed Jesus' feet with perfume. An alabaster jar of perfume could have been worth a year's wages.

How about a rich farmer who had an abundant harvest? His success gave him a dilemma – what to do with all his crops? He decided to tear down his barns in order to build bigger barns. He then put his feet up and lived off his profits.

In the gospel reading for this Sunday, Jesus tells the story of a rich farmer to a crowd of people in response to a request to settle a family dispute over money.

What did Jesus think of the rich farmer's actions? Jesus told the crowd that God's response to the farmer was to say, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself? This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.'

Jesus warned his listeners to be on their guard against all kinds of greed because life is not about an abundance of possessions. His final words are about finding riches with God.

In this story, we see how Jesus teaches that the values of God's Kingdom are radically different to those of the world. We are constantly tempted to have more things, but in God's economy we find abundance by giving rather than storing things up for ourselves.

Through following Jesus, Peter and the disciples found life in all its fullness. The woman who had lived a sinful life found forgiveness. And us? We, too, can find fullness of life, forgiveness and God's riches showered upon us through the life and work of Jesus:

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

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