



CELEBRATING AT HOME

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

False security (Luke 12:13-21)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
you are our Way.

Lord Jesus,
you are our Truth.

Lord Jesus,
you are our Life.

Scripture Reading (*Luke 12:13-21*)

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say, to my soul: 'My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time.'" But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

Reflection - *False Security*

All too often we are made aware of the vulnerability and uncertainty of life. Things can suddenly change.

We don't know what will happen today, tomorrow or even in a few moments' time. Such experiences can make us profoundly anxious, and we look for ways to protect ourselves and what we own against life's adverse events. It is not only a problem for wealthy people like the rich man in the Gospel today. It can be a problem for all of us. We seem to have an instinctive need to build a sense of security by amassing goods and wealth.

A strong focus in the Luke's Gospel is that nothing is more destructive of life and humanity than the need to acquire, hold on to and increase wealth. The problem is not the riches we possess but that our need to possess them gets in the way of our relationship with God, our only true security. That same need also gets in the way of our concern for others. We become reluctant to share what we have in case we may need it one day.

In many ways the Gospel is about the fundamental orientation of a disciple's life - do we live for ourselves and our possessions, or for God and the Kingdom? Do we own our possessions, or do they own us? What do we value most in life?

Thirsting after material things distorts us, narrows our focus and corrupts our moral sense. As disciples of Jesus, we try to keep God at the centre of our lives. In Baptism and Confirmation we pledge ourselves to be willing workers with God in making God's dreams and hopes for us all a reality.

A successful life in God's eyes is not about storing up material treasure for ourselves (the parable of the rich man in this Sunday's Gospel) but about being a source of real treasure for others (the servant parable in next Sunday's Gospel). Quite often, the prayers of the Mass ask God to help us to use wisely the good things of the earth.

God's wisdom always directs us towards using who we are and what we have to enrich the lives of others.

Living according to the heart of God helps us keep all things in their right order and opens us up to God's wider vision of reality.

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Prayers of Intercession

Help us, Lord, to treasure your gifts of creation and rejoice in the beauty that surrounds us.

Help us respect the limited resources of our earth in the decisions we make.

Take us beyond selfishness, greed and self-seeking.

Inspire in us actions which share your goodness.

Help us to be wise in the choices we make.

May we use well all the gifts you give us.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus, we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

**Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses**

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

Your faithfulness to us,

Lord, our God,

is beyond all our hope and expectation.

In all that we do or say,

in all the decisions we make,

may you be our source of security and peace
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

May God's blessing be always with us.

Amen.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family.



The Carmelites
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