

Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens
9th Sunday of Luke
Parable of the Rich Fool

Read the Gospel Passage. Luke 12:16-21

Contextual Background:

-Before this parable, a man from the crowd pleads to Jesus, telling Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me". Even if this man's brother is not sharing, Jesus is concerned for this man's focus on treasure, tells the man he is not an arbiter or a judge of possessions, and so says to the man and the whole crowd, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions".

Discussion Questions:

1. In this parable, what does the Rich Man decide to do with his abundance of produce? (MULTIPLE CHOICE)
 - a. Throw a giant feast/party to enjoy it all at once
 - b. Share it with his neighbors
 - c. Make more room to store it for later
 - d. Sell it to turn a quick profit

2. The rich man stores up his abundance and does nothing. What are some problems with this? (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. His abundance could spoil or be robbed
 - b. His behavior is selfish
 - c. His behavior is lazy as he plans on just resting and enjoying his abundance for the rest of his life
 - d. His life is cut short, so he will not enjoy what he saved up either way

3. Jesus tells us to be "rich towards God". What might that look like (MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. Putting God first, praying in the morning, before a meal, and reading Scripture
 - b. Giving God a generous amount of our time in worship
 - c. Putting our talents to use in the church or towards ministry
 - d. Setting aside our treasure/allowance/salary towards the church and towards helping those in need
 - e. Other answers?

4. The parable begins with a man from the crowd asking Jesus to tell his brother to divide up an inheritance that wasn't shared. (DISCUSSION)
 - a. When has there been a time something wasn't shared with you?
 - b. When has there been a time something was hard to share with someone else?
 - c. How do you think God want us to act in each instance?
5. In the parable, the rich man had such a good harvest he effectively decided to retire early. What does a good retirement look like for you? What would you do or have, and what do you think God has in store for us when we retire? (DISCUSSION)
6. In this parable the rich man died unexpectedly. Our faith teaches us the importance to remember our mortality. If your life ended "this very night" what might be your biggest regret? What might you wish you did first? (DISCUSSION)
7. How would you like to be remembered in life by others and by future generations? (DISCUSSION)