



31 July – 6 August 2022 • Faith 24/7

Rich towards God

 **Luke 12.13-21**

Someone asks Jesus to settle an argument he is having with his brother about sharing some property. Jesus says that this is not his job, but also warns people about being so concerned about collecting goods and becoming rich that they forget about being rich in God's eyes. Collecting things just for ourselves can get in the way of doing what pleases God.

Now read **Luke 12.13-21** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Jesus told parables about people and places which people were familiar with. They could ask about the meaning if they wanted to know more about his teaching, or they could just take away the main point of the story. Do you think they would easily get the main point of this story?



Collect together some coins, ideally including some that are more unusual. Make coin rubbings by hold a piece of paper firmly on top of a coin and rubbing with a wax crayon. It may be easier if two people work together: one holds the coin and paper, the other does the rubbing. Cut out the coin rubbings to make a collection of paper money.



Collect together as many small value coins as you can. Put them together to make a long snake. Keep working at this for as many days as you can – or until you run out of space! Get friends involved to help you make the snake even longer. How many coins can you gather? When you have done this, could you bag up all the coins and give the money to a local charity collection?



Read again this week's Bible story. Try to imagine what the life of the man in the story was like. Write a story, or draw a story board, about someone in today's world (or perhaps more than one person) who is so busy collecting more and more goods or money, that they have no time to do important things or think about God. Give the person (people) interesting names – you can probably think of something much better than Ivor Lotofstuff! Add as much details to the story as you can. Then read or show it to your friends or family.



What do you have in abundance? How do we become rich towards God?

Give



What do you do with spare produce from your garden? Or books and toys that you no longer need? Or spare clothes? Could you perhaps set up a table outside your house and put your spare items on it for people to take to use – FREE. Or could you give some spare books or toys or other items to a local charity?



Play a memory game. Choose a letter, then search the room (or the house) to find as many items as you can, beginning with that letter (set a time limit). You can do this individually, or as a group. Put all the items on a tray. Allow a short time for everyone to look at the items, then cover the tray with a cloth. Wait a few moments more, then write down or draw as many items as you can remember. Again, you could do this individually – see who wins! – or as a group working together. Check your list. What items were not remembered? Does this mean they are not needed? Thinking more broadly, do you have things that you don't really need? What could you do with them?

Holy Trinity & St Matthew's Church, Ronkswood

Weekly Newsletter and Reflections Trinity 7 31st July 2022



Daily Readings for week commencing 1 st August 2022		
Monday	1 Samuel 10: 1-16	Luke 22: 24-30
Tuesday	1 Samuel 10: 17-end	Luke 22: 31-38
Wednesday	1 Samuel 11	Luke 22: 39-46
Thursday	1 Samuel 12	Luke 22: 47-62
Friday	1 Samuel 13: 5-18	Luke 22: 63-end
Saturday	1 Kings 19: 1-16	1 John 3: 1-3 <i>The Transfiguration</i>

Pray for those in need... Please pray for the people of Ukraine...for those in need of God's healing touch...Heather, Dorothy, Pat, Sue, Joyce, Maureen, Shane, Bryn, Katie-Lou, Margaret and Alison... **Please pray for those who mourn the loss of a loved one...** remembering the souls of Maureen and George

Important Note: There will be no service at the Community Centre on Sunday 7th August. A YouTube service will be available on the day and a link will be circulated on email. You can also join in worship at our other churches across the team:

St Mark's in the Cherry Orchard at 9.30 a.m.
Whittington at 11.00 a.m.
St Martin's at 10.00 a.m.



We are holding a Teddy Bears' Picnic at the Countryside Centre on Saturday 20th August at 1.00 p.m. Look out your favourite bear and bring him along. More details, speak to Sue Gilchrist



IT'S MINE NOT YOURS . . . Is there some deeper sin beneath the

apparent ungodliness of hoarding wealth? As we see – first from Ecclesiastes, and then from Luke – accumulating stuff doesn't make a person happy. But is this the whole story? The pandemic saw, at first, a most impressive drive to devise, test, evaluate and license a whole range of vaccines against Covid-19. But then hoarding set in. Sometimes, as when the UK secured the promise of enough vaccine to vaccinate its population several times over, it was called prudence. Later it was vaccine nationalism. Some people insisted that the nation devising the vaccine should get first access to it, regardless of need. Others sought to disparage a vaccine they hadn't produced or procured in sufficient supply, regardless of the consequences of thereby encouraging vaccine hesitancy. What lay behind this rather shocking display of school-playground mentality? 'It's my ball and he's not playing with it!' 'It's a rotten ball and I wouldn't play with you even if you let me!' Covid vaccines proved a kind of possession that illustrated all too clearly how our possessions, even good and useful ones, can come to be seen as our only protection against a hostile and dangerous world – or our leverage against opponents. We become possessive and defensive, trusting that what we own will protect us from other people, never mind from impending emergencies or unseen dangers. So, richness in stuff really does seem to militate strongly against trust in God. Stuff can mask our real need, and leave no room for faith to squeeze in. Stuff perpetuates and builds fear of loss; and that inhibits hope, as well as love, compassion and generosity. But it's very hard to shake off our trust in stuff completely. Perhaps we should at the very least wind it down a bit.