

This Sunday's Gospel deals with valuing earthly things in the light of heaven. Jesus shows how dangerous it is to put one's faith in riches: "Increased possession is not the ultimate goal of nations nor of individuals ... It is essential if man is to develop as a man, but in a way, it imprisons man if he considers it the supreme good, and it restricts his vision" (Paul VI, *Populorum progressio*, 19).

The parable that our Lord uses to communicate this teaching is very interesting. At first sight, we might assume that this rich man was acting prudently: if one has a good harvest, one should store it and not let it go to waste. Jesus says we need to look far beyond practical needs and values. This life, lived for its own sake, does not amount to much; the riches we should seek are spiritual ones.

So, it enriches our life to be always conscious of death: "A person who lives as if he were to die every day – given that our life is uncertain by definition – will not sin, for good fear extinguishes most of the disorder of our appetites; whereas he who thinks he has a long life ahead of him will easily let himself be dominated by pleasures" (St Athanasius, *Vita Antonii*).

Indeed, as one of our own parishioners likes to say: "People are made for love. Things are made to be used. However, we often love things and use people, and this only makes us unhappy."

*We must know that we have been created for greater things: to love and to be loved* (Mother Teresa). Thus, even if we comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if we have faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, we are nothing (1 Cor 13:2). *Love one another* (John 13:34).

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