

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

August 4, 2013
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary: 114

Gospel Lk 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." He replied to him, "Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?" Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." Then he told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'this is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God."



2013

Spiritual Reflection:

Jean Vanier in his book: *Befriending the Stranger* shares with us this great insight: "Jesus looks at our world today, at our big cities, our countries, with all their divisions, inequality, hatred, and violence and he weeps. Jesus came into the world to bring peace, to bring all people together into one body wherein each person has a place. But we human beings have turned our world into a place of competition, rivalry, conflict, and war between races, religions social classes, and countries. The world has become a place in which each person feels they have to protect and defend themselves, their own family, their own country, their own class, their own religion. Nuclear weapons, missiles and machine guns are the outer, visible signs of our inner, invisible, personal weapons. These we bring out as soon as we feel threatened, humiliated, and rejected, or when we feel we are not give our rightful space; our rightful place." Today's Gospel is a reminder to focus on what is really important on life instead of trying to defend and protect unimportant things such as material possessions.

Spiritual Questions

1. What do you try to defend?
2. Do you ask Jesus to decide between you and someone else?
3. What role does protecting material possessions play in your relationship with others?
4. How would you live your life if you knew tomorrow you would die?
5. Write down you own eulogy. What things do you wish to be remembered for?

