

TFTD 2025.14 Thursday March 20th
The rich fool: Luke 12.13-34



And Jesus said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. For your life does not consist in the abundance of your possessions.”

Our modern world is built on so much anxiety. Our society is geared in many ways to keeping us dissatisfied with our lot. FOMO - the fear of missing out - is a current manifestation of this! Am I keeping up with everyone else? For many in our area this is an issue even if we have far more than we need. For others there is the far more serious issue of my ability to survive and keep my and my family’s heads above water.

Are we really meant to live with this level of anxiety - real or imagined?

Jesus’ warnings here indicate that much of the world has faced many of the same issues for much of human history. Many of his hearers of course lived on the breadline and there was always the prospect that one day they would tip over into complete crisis. Much of the world lives in this state now. One disaster can mean instant destitution. And so it was to people like this, not to people worried about affording their next Porsche or the next foreign holiday, that Jesus spoke. However he did have in mind also the fortunate ones who were doing very nicely thank you.

We all know that anxiety can affect our lives and the lives of those close to us very seriously. Some tip over into worrying about worrying. As with so much of his teaching, what Jesus says here goes to the heart of the way we are and the way we could be. This wasn't just good advice on how to live a happier, more carefree life. This is a challenge to the very centre of his and our world.

We live in a political world where everyone promises "change". Our government was elected on this slogan but struggles to bring it about. The problems are too entrenched, they say. And we see that on one level but there is much impatience too. They have been in power for only eight months but some people say already that nothing has changed and we need somebody else. And so the cycle goes on.

Jesus comes with a message that God is the real change and, if we embrace his values and are honest with the way the world functions and our part in, then we can discover this change properly.

In answer to a practical question - an inheritance dispute here - Jesus doesn't just offer sage advice. He is no agony aunt - or uncle! He tells a parable. He brings a picture of a man who finds his security in hoarding his possessions. Build a bigger barn! Build a bigger house! There is plenty of that going on in these parts.....But God concludes the parable in saying, "You fool!" You can't take it with you. This very night life might be over and then what? "So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God."

The Kingdom of God is at its heart about God's sovereignty sweeping the world with love and light where we may know that ultimately he is in control. There is a release for us here in this. Jesus points to the world of nature as he speaks. "Don't worry about your life.....Consider the ravens. They neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them." God, the Creator, loves to give good gifts, loves to bring his sovereign care and compassion to every door. If God is a God who calls us his children why do we not trust him? Why do we look to invent some security in a thousand other ways?

Our passage today ends up with a very deep thought. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” What matters to us most in our lives? If our house is burning down, what or who would we most try to rescue? God’s values and priorities make us far richer in every way than our own greed and anxiety ever will.

In Lent we have an opportunity to turn to prayer and ask God to help us to discern who we really are and what it is that motivates us. This passage has much to say to us as we do this.

Let’s look at ourselves and the foolishness of much of our thinking - our attempts to control all, to have all, to know all.

Let’s look and laugh at our folly.

Let’s look and change our ways.

**Let’s look at God who, like a loving parent, holds and feeds us,
Knows all our needs.**

Let’s look at God, the invisible one made visible in Jesus.

Look and give thanks for the Creator’s care,

The Saviour’s love, the Spirit’s help.

Let’s look for the signs of God’s Kingdom above all else.

Look and pray and work and strive for that just peace

That is God’s way, for our world and for our lives.

Amen

God bless,

Nick Thompson