

Discussion & Reflection Questions
Greater Things Week 7
Pentecost 8C - 3rd of August 2025

Read: Luke 12.13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’ ¹⁴ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ ¹⁵ And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” ¹⁸ Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ²⁰ But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

Questions

1. Why do you think the man asks Jesus to step into his family situation & why does he think Jesus could influence the situation?
2. Why does Jesus refuse to act as a judge or arbitrator in the family dispute, even though he clearly has authority?
3. What does the rich man do wrong?
4. What is the significance of the farmer’s repeated use of “I” and “my” in the parable (v17–19)?
5. How does this parable challenge us to reflect on how we use resources & influence in a consumer-driven self-focused culture?
6. What does it mean to be “rich toward God” (v.21)? How can this be lived out practically in our own life?
7. How does reading this passage through the lens of John 14:12 & our “Greater Things” theme change the perspective of the passage?

Prayer

Living God, Judge of us all, you have placed in our hands the wealth we call our own: through your Spirit give us wisdom, that our possessions may not be a curse, but a means of blessing in our lives. Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.