

THE SUNDAY PAPER

Year C
 PROPER 13
 TRACK 1

One of the things Jesus talked about most often was money. Money is a way of getting what we want, and being in charge. People who have plenty of money easily get used to having their own way all the time, and being the boss. People who don't have much money usually wish they had more, so they could get what they want more often. Jesus had to keep reminding people that money and power are not the most important things. The most important thing is to know and follow God's ways.

THE RICH FARMER

Luke 12:13-21

ONE DAY, JESUS WAS TALKING TO A CROWD. A MAN IN THE CROWD CALLED OUT TO HIM!

RABBI! EVER SINCE OUR FATHER DIED, MY BROTHER HAS KEPT ALL OUR FATHER'S MONEY! MAKE HIM GIVE ME MY HALF!

GOD DIDN'T SEND ME TO YOU TO SETTLE YOUR ARGUMENTS! HE SENT ME TO SHOW YOU HIS KINGDOM! BEWARE OF GREEDINESS! LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT A FARMER...

WOW! WHAT A CROP!

WHERE WILL I PUT IT ALL? I'LL HAVE TO BUILD SOME NEW BARNs ... ONE OVER THERE, ONE OVER THERE ...

I'LL BE ALL SET! (LUKE 12:19!)

BUT THAT VERY NIGHT, AS HE MADE THESE PLANS - HE DIED! HE NEVER GOT TO ENJOY HIS WEALTH!

HE FORGOT THAT BEING RICH DID NOT MAKE HIM INVINCIBLE!

God gave us a beautiful world full of good things to use and enjoy and share. Instead, we try to pile up money and things to make us feel powerful. But it doesn't really work, because it goes against God's plan for us and for the world he made.

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HOSEA 11:1
 God says, "Long ago, I loved my people, and brought them out of Egypt"

PSALM 107:2
 "The Lord gathered his people, and saved them from their enemies"

COLOSSIANS 3:10
 "Jesus has made you new, so you can become what God made you to be; full of love"