LORD'S VOICE

APOSTOLIC MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH OF GREECE

74th Year November 22, 2026 Pamphlet #47 (3834)

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Luke 12:16-21, 8:8)
God Himself is the good

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And 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. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

THE FOLLY OF GREED

The occasion for the Lord to relate today's parable was a dispute between two brothers over an inheritance. Evidently, Christ knew that both of them had surrendered themselves to greed. For this reason, when He was asked to become their "judge" and divide their property, he refused. Rather, addressing the crowd that was present, He emphasized: "Take heed and beware of every kind of greed, for one's possessions, no matter how great they may be do not give true life to man." (Luke 12:13-16). With this exhortation, the Lord helps us avoid the

sickness, the passion of greed. Therefore, He tells the parable of the rich fool as a perpetual reminder of the proper attitude that a believer should have toward material possessions.

The spiritual death caused by greed

The Apostle Paul, advising the Christians of Colossae to put to death whatever bound them to their sinful past, urges them also to mortify the passion of greed, which he characterizes as "idolatry" (Colossians 3:5). So great is the power of greed that it distances a person from God, from love, justice, and fellowship. It isolates him within himself and leads him to worship created things as idols. That is why the wealthy landowner in the parable, when he beheld the abundant yield of his fields, did not think of glorifying and thanking God, rewarding his laborers, offering the "first fruits" of his harvest in the Temple, or helping his poor fellow men. Instead, his mind turned to the construction of large storehouses in which to keep his goods, and to how he would use them for his enjoyment and comfort: "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry."

What is greed?

Greed essentially consists in a person's desire to acquire ever more possessions, in an intense longing to possess greater wealth. It is a passionate attachment to the material reality, an avarice that creates in a person the impression that the more he possesses, the more he will live in happiness and self-sufficiency. Of course, the cause of the passion of greed is not money itself nor material goods as such, but rather man's mistaken attitude toward them. For these things were given to be used properly, with prudence, and to be shared justly with all. Saint John Chrysostom describes greed as "the bulimia of the soul" and points out that it afflicts both the poor and the rich: the poor who are subject to this passion, envy the rich, while the rich, in turn, envy those who are wealthier than themselves. In this way, greed alienates a person, deprives him of his freedom, and

subjects all his powers to the insatiable desire for the accumulation of material possessions. Thus, a person becomes dominated by fear, anxiety, and insecurity in his effort to preserve and increase his wealth by every possible means.

Wealth according to God

The rich man of the parable carefully considered everything concerning the management of his possessions; however, he had excluded from his thoughts the prospect of his death. Yet, precisely when he least expected it, God made known to him his impending end: "Fool! This very night you will hand over your life. So, then, whose will those things be which you have prepared?" The Lord reminds every person that there is a kind of "wealth" that impoverishes, and a kind of "poverty" that enriches. The believer who does not store up treasures that are temporary, but instead enriches himself with those things that God desires, already tastes in this present life the transcendence of death. For, being united with Christ, he keeps his soul open to His divine words, which he strives to put into practice in his life. For this reason, he allows his love to flow toward the God of Love; and, inspired by God's love, he loves every person, even his enemy. This love becomes concrete and active through every means at his disposal. Then he comes to understand what the Apostle Paul means when he says: "As poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things" (2 Corinthians 6:10).

Archimandrite N. K.

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COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW
by Saint John Chrysostom
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November 22, 2026: 9th SUNDAY OF LUKE

Apostles Archippus, Philemon, and Onesimus. Martyr Cecilia and those with her († 230). Hieromartyrs Clement and Sisinius. Venerable James the New Ascetic of Euboea († 1991).

Pl. 4th Tone – Eothinon: 3 – Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7 – Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

NEXT SUNDAY: November 29, 13th Sunday of Luke
Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19 – Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

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