

Year C

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year

The rich man

INTRODUCTION

Today Jesus explains that money and belongings cannot bring us the happiness of everlasting life in heaven.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read aloud:

You, Lord, are the light in my life who chases away any darkness. (2 Samuel 22:29)

SORRY

Ask one of the children to choose a "sorry color," and say the corresponding prayer together.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord help us to listen
and to follow you.

Alleluia, alleluia!

GOSPEL (LUKE 12:16-21)

One day Jesus told this parable: "Once there was a rich man who owned many farms. One year the harvest was so good that the man could not store it all in his many barns. 'I will build bigger and better barns,' he said, 'and then I will be so rich that I will have nothing to worry about.'

"But God said to the man, 'You are a foolish man! When you die, what use will your worldly riches be, because in the eyes of God you are poor, indeed.'"

DISCUSSION

Why did the rich man need to build bigger and better barns? That year there was a bountiful harvest and he could not fit all the crops into his barns to be stored.

If he had been a kind and generous man, what could he have done with the extra food he had? The man was already rich and did not really need to worry about storing the extra harvest. Instead

of being selfish and greedy, he could have stored up his treasure in heaven by giving some of the food to people who needed it more than he did.

The rich man busied himself making money, and thought that if he had enough, then he would be a truly happy man. But money and possessions do not make us rich in the eyes of God.

By living as Jesus taught us and sharing in God's kingdom now, we will store up our treasure in heaven. Every good deed and word of kindness are more precious to God than money can ever be. When we die, whatever money or possessions we have are left behind us, but our goodness will last forever and bring us everlasting happiness.

Can you remember another parable Jesus told to explain how important it is to know what really makes us rich in the eyes of God? The parables of the treasure and the pearl (see the 17th Sunday of Year A). Remind the children briefly of these stories in your own words.

ACTIVITY

Give each child a copy of the maze and ask them to show the rich man the way to heaven.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, help me

to store up my riches in heaven
and not just on earth.

Lead me to know

what is truly important

so that I do not waste my time
on worthless things.

(Psalm 119:36-37)



Finish

Lead the Rich man to the real Treasure!

Start

