

18th Sunday (C)

- All too often we are made aware of the vulnerability and uncertainty of life.
- Things can suddenly change.
- We don't know what will happen today, tomorrow or even in a few moments' time.
- Such experiences can make us profoundly anxious, and we look for ways to protect ourselves and what we own against life's adverse events.
- It is not only a problem for wealthy people like the rich man in the Gospel today. It can be a problem for all of us.
- We seem to have an instinctive need to build a sense of security by amassing goods and wealth.
- A strong focus in the Luke's Gospel is that nothing is more destructive of life and humanity than the need to acquire, hold on to and increase wealth.
- The problem is not the riches we possess but that our need to possess them gets in the way of our relationship with God, our only true security.
- That same need also gets in the way of our concern for others.
- We become reluctant to share what we have in case we may need it one day.
- In many ways the Gospel is about the fundamental orientation of a disciple's life - do we live for ourselves and our possessions, or for God and the Kingdom? Do we own our possessions, or do they own us?
- What do we value most in life?
- Thirsting after material things distorts us, narrows our focus and corrupts our moral sense.
- As disciples of Jesus, we try to keep God at the centre of our lives.
- In Baptism and Confirmation we pledge ourselves to be willing workers with God in making God's dreams and hopes for us all a reality.
- A successful life in God's eyes is not about storing up material treasure for ourselves (the parable of the rich man in this Sunday's Gospel) but about being a source of real treasure for others (the servant parable in next Sunday's Gospel).
- Quite often, the prayers of the Mass ask God to help us to use wisely the good things of the earth.
- God's wisdom always directs us towards using what we are and what we have to enrich the lives of others.
- Living according to the heart of God helps us keep all things in their right order and opens us up to God's wider vision of reality.