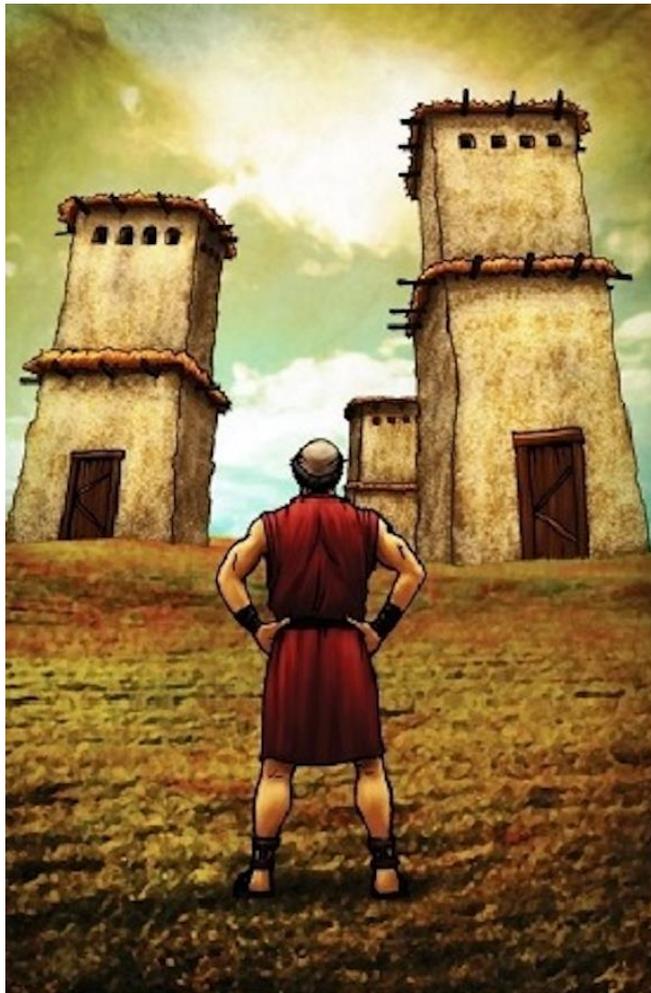


# Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup>

## Trinity 7

This week we explore our attitude to abundance



### Readings

New Testament Colossians 3 verses 1 – 11

Gospel : Luke 12 verses 13 – 21

Jesus, you teach us the way to find true treasure.  
Give us eyes to look beyond the superficial,  
ears to hear the needs of others  
and hands to reach out in selfless care. **Amen.**

## Gospel : Luke 12 verses 13 – 21

### Jesus Warns Against Selfishness

<sup>13</sup> One of the men in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide with me the property our father left us."

<sup>14</sup> But Jesus said to him, "Who said that I should be your judge or decide how to divide the property between you two?" <sup>15</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. A man's life is not measured by the many things he owns."

<sup>16</sup> Then Jesus used this story: "There was a rich man who had some land, which grew a good crop of food. <sup>17</sup> The rich man thought to himself, 'What will I do? I have no place to keep all my crops.' <sup>18</sup> Then he said, 'I know what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones! I will put all my grain and other goods together in my new barns. <sup>19</sup> Then I can say to myself, I have enough good things stored to last for many years. Rest, eat, drink, and enjoy life!'

<sup>20</sup> "But God said to that man, 'Foolish man! Tonight you will die. So who will get those things you have prepared for yourself?'

<sup>21</sup> "This is how it will be for anyone who stores things up only for himself and is not rich toward God."

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### A version of the story for very young children

Use different-sized toy farm buildings for the storytelling, or some simple barn shapes cut from felt or card and a play figure farmer.

Jesus told a story to warn people not to be greedy.

He said, 'There was a rich farmer whose farm produced so much grain

it could not fit in his barns,

so he decided to replace all his barns with bigger barns,

storing all his grain for himself.

But God said to the man, "You fool!

You keep all your stuff for yourself!

Tonight, you will die, then who will have all your goods?"

#### Stop and share

- Explain inheritance as money or property received after its owner dies.
- The man had an 'abundance' of corn (enough, with enough to share).
- This story is a 'parable' that helps us to understand God and God's values.

Does anyone here want to know how to catch a monkey? Well, I can tell you a story about how they catch a monkey in some places of the world. First, they take a gourd, cut a small hole in it, then put some rice inside. Next, they tie the gourds down securely and wait for the monkey. The monkeys are so greedy that they fall for the gourd trick every time. The monkey sticks his paw into the gourd to get the rice. He grabs a handful—but then he can't get his hand out of the gourd. His closed fist won't go through the small hole. The monkey is so greedy that he won't let go of the handful of rice. He just waits there with his greedy fist wrapped around the rice until the men come and capture him.

Well, you've got the moral to this story: Don't be greedy and selfish or you may make a "monkey" of yourself.

Jesus says, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life isn't measured by how much you own." Hear what God's Word says. Don't let selfishness and greed make a monkey out of you. There is nothing wrong with having an abundance but it is what you do with it.....remember abundance is having enough, with enough to share!

### **Talk together**

- What sort of things might you have in abundance? What are some things that are more difficult to share?
- In the parable, the rich man had an abundance of corn. If he had shared it, how might that have been better?
- Sharing what we have abundance of is one way to be 'rich' towards God. What else helps us to be 'rich' towards God?

### **VERY YOUNG CHILDREN**

#### **Share snacks**

#### **Play and think about holding on to what matters**

Have some light refreshments to share, showing how to divide them fairly; then talk about where to share the rest.

#### **Millionaire!**

#### **Imagine what you would do if you were rich**

- Ask the children to imagine that someone comes into the room and gives them one million pounds. Discuss what they might do with it. Encourage them to think beyond their own wants, and ask them what good things for others God might like for them to do.

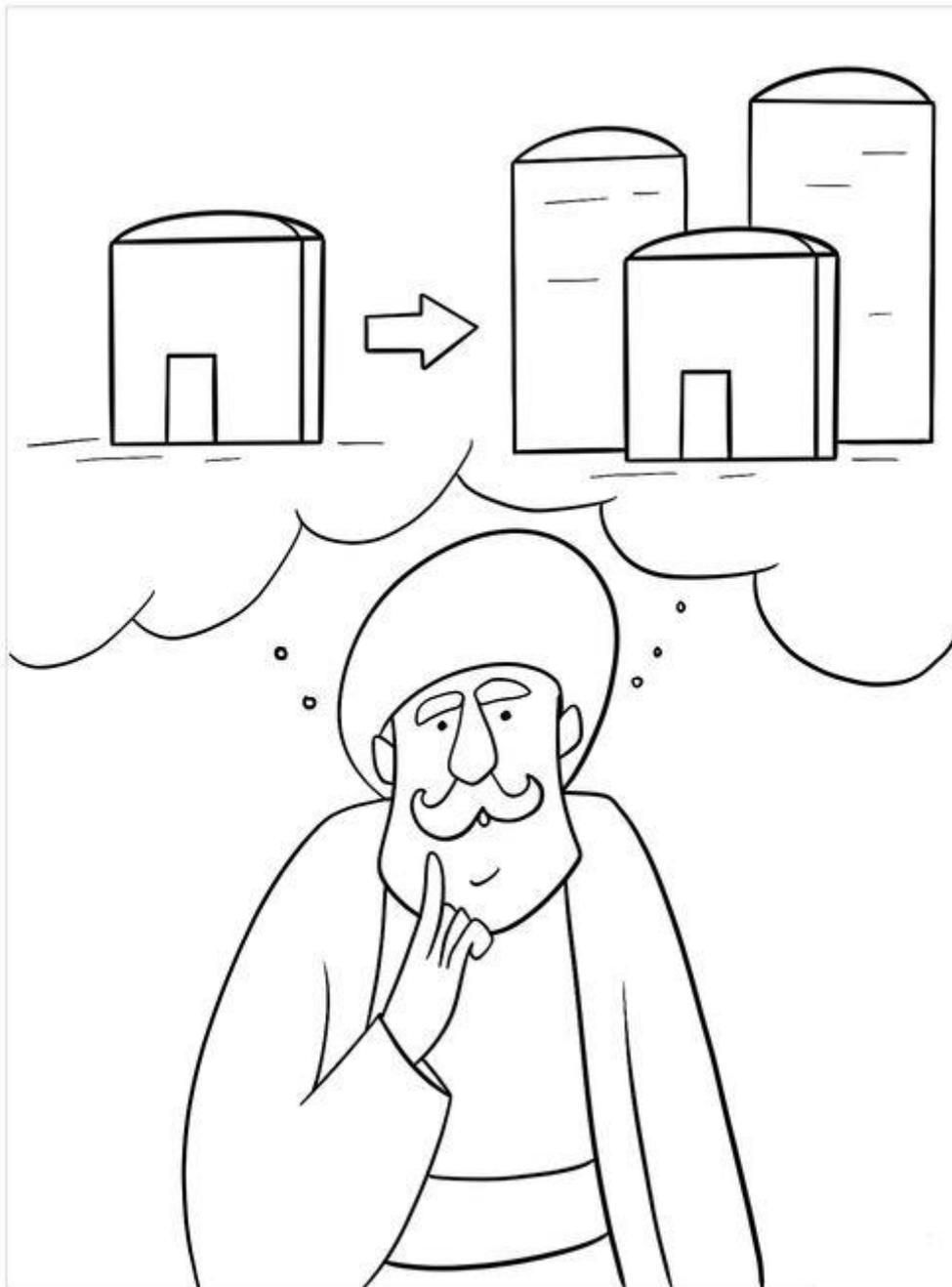
#### **Talk to God: Coin flip**

#### **Pray for those who need our abundance and for a right attitude to sharing**

**You will need:** coins, e.g. 2p, 50p, £2.

- Make small groups and give each group a coin. Make sure the children know how to flip a coin.
- Explain that they are going to pray according to the coin toss. Heads – pray for self to share and have right attitude; Tails – pray for those who don't have enough.
- Give the children time to take turns flipping coins and praying as a group. Make sure that everyone has a chance to flip the coin and encourage the children to pray aloud on their turn.

Colour the picture of the farmer and his barns

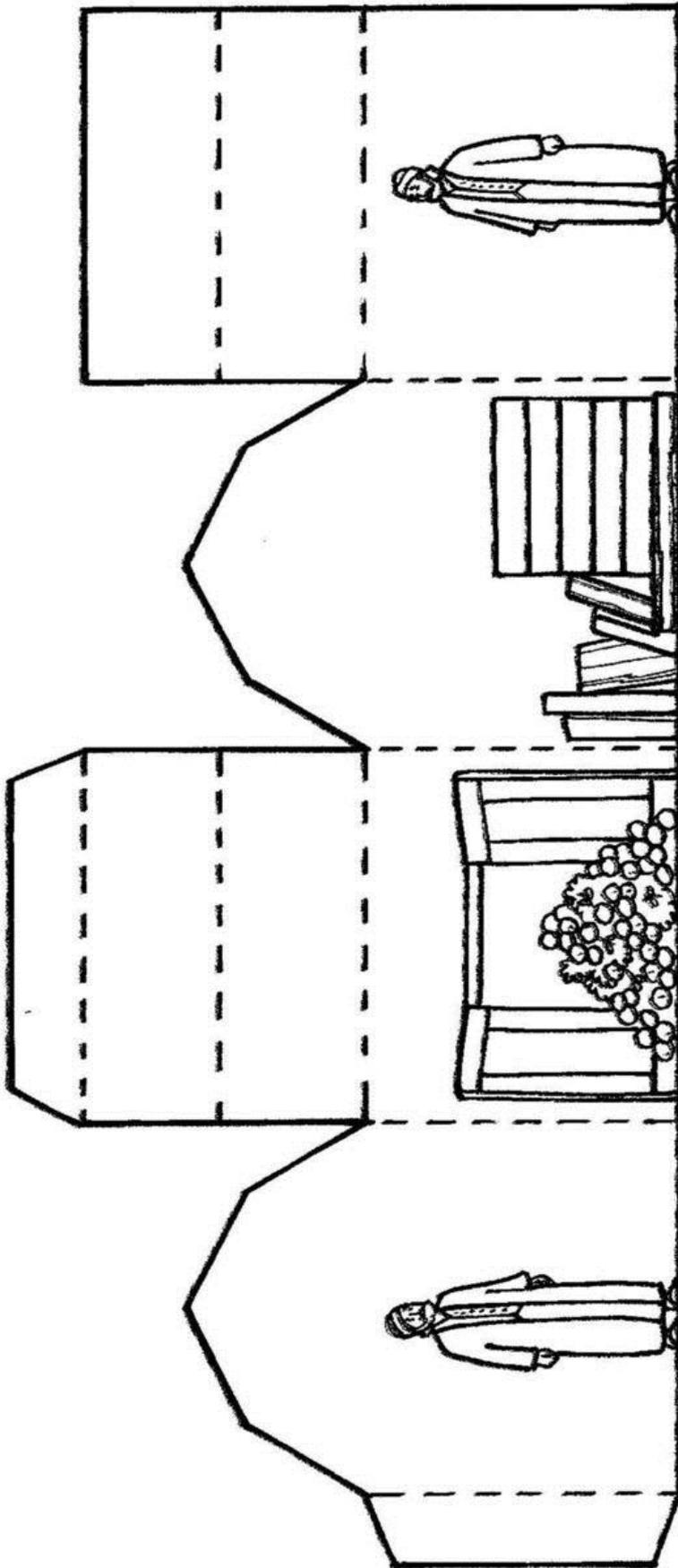


What should he be thinking of doing with his abundance ?

# THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

Luke 12:16-21

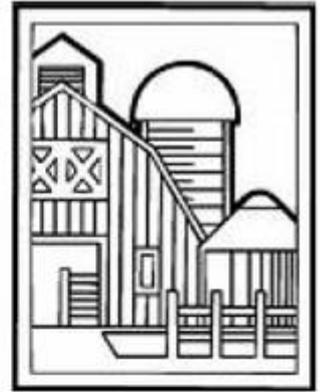
BARN PATTERN



Print onto a piece of card, cut out and make your barn. Using sticky notes write on each one something to fill your barn i.e kindness, sharing etc. and stick the notes in your barn.

# The Parable of the Rich Fool

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.



And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain \_\_\_\_\_ man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my \_\_\_\_\_.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my \_\_\_\_\_ and build \_\_\_\_\_ ones, and there I will store all my \_\_\_\_\_ and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_."'

"But God said to him, 'You \_\_\_\_\_! This very night your \_\_\_\_\_ will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

Luke 12:16-21 (NIV)

barns  
bigger

crops  
drink

eat  
fool

grain  
life

merry  
rich

# The Parable of the Rich Fool

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	O	W	V	A	Y	B	E	C	G	D	L	N	M	U	P	F	I	S	Z	K	H	J	Q	T	R

1. 11-26-18-13-21 \_\_\_\_\_

2. 26-18-9-22 \_\_\_\_\_

3. 10-26-5-18-13 \_\_\_\_\_

4. 7-5-26-13-19 \_\_\_\_\_

5. 12-18-17-8 \_\_\_\_\_

6. 8-5-25 \_\_\_\_\_

7. 17-2-2-12 \_\_\_\_\_

8. 14-8-26-26-6 \_\_\_\_\_

RICH	BARNS	DRINK	LIFE
GRAIN	EAT	MERRY	FOOL

## Rich towards God

 Luke 12.13-21

Someone asks Jesus to settle an argument he is having with his brother about sharing some property. Jesus says that this is not his job, but also warns people about being so concerned about collecting goods and becoming rich that they forget about being rich in God's eyes. Collecting things just for ourselves can get in the way of doing what pleases God.

Now read Luke 12.13-21 see p.2 for text.

### A note on the passage

Jesus told parables about people and places which people were familiar with. They could ask about the meaning if they wanted to know more about his teaching, or they could just take away the main point of the story. Do you think they would easily get the main point of this story?



Collect together some coins, ideally including some that are more unusual. Make coin rubbings by hold a piece of paper firmly on top of a coin and rubbing with a wax crayon. It may be easier if two people work together: one holds the coin and paper, the other does the rubbing. Cut out the coin rubbings to make a collection of paper money.

## COUNT

Collect together as many small value coins as you can. Put them together to make a long snake. Keep working at this for as many days as you can – or until you run out of space! Get friends involved to help you make the snake even longer. How many coins can you gather? When you have done this, could you bag up all the coins and give the money to a local charity collection?



Read again this week's Bible story. Try to imagine what the life of the man in the story was like. Write a story, or draw a story board, about someone in today's world (or perhaps more than one person) who is so busy collecting more and more goods or money, that they have no time to do important things or think about God. Give the person (people) interesting names – you can probably think of something much better than Ivor Lotofstuff! Add as much details to the story as you can. Then read or show it to your friends or family.



What do you have in abundance? How do we become rich towards God?



What do you do with spare produce from your garden? Or books and toys that you no longer need? Or spare clothes? Could you perhaps set up a table outside your house and put your spare items on it for people to take to use – FREE. Or could you give some spare books or toys or other items to a local charity?



Play a memory game. Choose a letter, then search the room (or the house) to find as many items as you can, beginning with that letter (set a time limit). You can do this individually, or as a group. Put all the items on a tray. Allow a short time for everyone to look at the items, then cover the tray with a cloth. Wait a few moments more, then write down or draw as many items as you can remember. Again, you could do this individually – see who wins! – or as a group working together. Check your list. What items were not remembered? Does this mean they are not needed? Thinking more broadly, do you have things that you don't really need? What could you do with them?