



'Worship at home'

Sunday August 3rd 2025



We come to worship God who calls us
into relationships of love and grace.

Opening from *Psalms* 107

Come and give thanks to the Lord, who is good.

God's love endures forever!

When we experience desert wastelands
and times of abandonment,

God's love endures forever!

Know that God never gives up on us:

God promises to be with us always.

God's love endures forever!

God satisfies the thirsty

and fills the hungry with good things.

God's love endures forever!

Let us wisely heed these things

and give thanks for God's unfailing love.



I confess I am a bit of a hoarder. My
handbag is always full, my house cluttered.

We sometimes find it comforting to gather around us things we
think we cannot do without. It can be easy to find get distracted



by the clutter in our lives, whether that be
possessions, activities, even people. American author Dave Bruno has written a book entitled *The 100 Thing Challenge*, giving practical advice to help live more meaningfully by casting off the unnecessary "stuff" that clutters our lives. By reducing his personal possessions to 100 things, Dave Bruno encourages readers to stop and think about what is really important to them.

Jesus also challenges us about where we place our priorities, and how we might come to know and rely on God's generous love and grace as central to our lives.

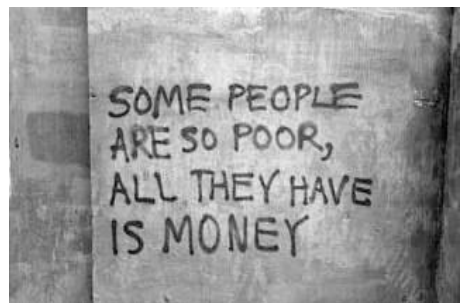
Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will

tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

New International Version

This man was embroiled in a family feud over money, and his desire for his fair share was consuming him. However, Jesus knows that riches do not come from what we have, but from who we are and how we live, in God. Jesus' story of the rich farmer challenges our preoccupation with ourselves and what we have. In God alone we find fullness of life, that we might flourish and know the richness of life in God.



**What riches have you stored up
which might distract you from God's purposes?**

How easy it is to come to rely on those distractions and build our lives around them. Consider which of your “riches” make a positive difference in your life, helping you to grow and to be who God is calling you to be.

**What might you be called to let go of,
so that you can spend more time, energy, and resources
focussing on what really is important in your life?**

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
we live in a society that focuses on gathering stuff.
We collect, store, gather items, gadgets, even people.
We focus our energies on our collections,
and our distractions, and yet we cannot find time
to grow our prayer life, to read our Bibles,
to have a coffee with a friend in need.
We ensure we have what we think we need,
yet we close our eyes to the needs of others,
to those who have little or nothing,
to those for whom life is a struggle.
We are sorry for the ways in which we have failed you.
Forgive us.
Turn us around to look at the ways in which our wealth,
...our belongings, our time, our resources, our love,
our lives... can be used for healing and hope.
Enable us to be in ministry to those in need
and to care for this world.
For we ask this in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**



*~ adapted from Nancy C. Townley Worship Connection
<http://www.ministrymatters.com/>*

Assurance of Forgiveness

We know the good news, that in Christ we are made new.
Our sins are forgiven: **thanks be to God.**

It is not only possessions and resources that we gather and accumulate: we hoard and protect and worry over our family, our friends, our status, our self-esteem. We place them safely inside our barns and build up barriers to keep ourselves secure. 3

This story encourages us to open ourselves to God's grace and goodness, knowing that in God we have enough. Our security comes from living in the richness of God, grounded in Christ, so we can live gratefully and generously, giving of ourselves in love.

How can you be "rich toward God"?

How can you share your riches with others, that they too might grow and flourish?

This might not only be your money, but also your time, other resources, and your love. We are called to love generously, and to give of ourselves, knowing that in God who we are and what we have will be sufficient.

Prayer

Lord, you have blessed us with so much!

We want you to know that we are truly grateful.

Let us never fall into the trap of becoming wasteful or overly preoccupied with storing up for ourselves that which is not truly necessary

and let us use everything you have blessed us with to be a blessing for others.

May your generosity toward us make us truly more generous toward all, especially those in greatest need. Amen.

Closing

Happy are those who know real treasure and where to find it.

Happy are those who receive God's treasure and share it unselfishly.

Invest your life and your heart in Christ, just as God has invested Christ in you.

Happy are those whose reward is found in heaven, not on earth.

Go now in the name of Christ, God's ultimate gift of love.

Thanks be to God. *Worship Elements* <https://www.ministrymatters.com>

