

WELCOME AND NOTICES

Welcome to Café Church on the first Sunday of the month. Our service will be interactive, and you will have a chance to discuss our theme in the service.

Next Sunday we welcome the Scouting Groups for our Remembrance Parade Service. Please get here early as seating will be more limited than usual.

Next Sunday will also be our November Wild Church at 3pm, meeting in the Garden of Remembrance.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

‘Though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them’ (Psalm 62:10b). We are thinking today about our priorities – what’s important to us and to God. But first a prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of all, who holds the universe in your hands, we offer you our praise and worship out of the love within our hearts. Please forgive us when we have forgotten you or disobeyed you, and cleanse us from all our sins; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Jesus came to forgive our sins. Therefore, he says to everyone who turns from their sin and turns back to God, “Your sins are forgiven.”

Amen. Thanks be to God

SONGS:

STRENGTH WILL RISE

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

We will wait upon the Lord

(repeat).

**Our God, you reign forever
Our hope, our strong deliverer**

**You are the everlasting God
The everlasting God, You will not faint
You won’t grow weary
You’re the defender of the weak
You comfort those in need
You lift us up on wings like eagles**

ALL MY DAYS

**All my days I will sing this song of gladness,
Give my praise to the Fountain of delights;
For in my helplessness you heard my cry,
And waves of mercy poured down on my life.**

***Beautiful Saviour, Wonderful Counsellor,
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You’re the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,
You’re the Risen One, heaven’s
Champion,
And you reign, you reign over all!***

**I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer,
I will sing of the blood that never fails;
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
Of death defeated and life without end.**

***Beautiful Saviour, Wonderful Counsellor,
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You’re the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,
You’re the Risen One, heaven’s
Champion,
And you reign, you reign over all!***

**I long to be where the praise is never-
ending,
Yearn to dwell where the glory never
fades;
Where countless worshippers will share
one song,
And cries of `worthy' will honour the
Lamb!**

INTRODUCTION: Family arguments

At your table, I'd like you to discuss the following question: What kinds of things do families argue about? What are the causes of family arguments?

READING: Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.'

¹⁴ Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?' ¹⁵ 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.'

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops."

¹⁸ '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. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

²⁰ '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?"

²¹ 'This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.'

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

ACTIVITY

You may well know the nursery rhyme 'This is the house that Jack built.' We are going to retell the parable we just heard using the same format but with actions.

Rich farmer – rub fingers together to indicate wealth

Land – make a rectangle with your hands

Seed – hold hand out as though holding seed

Wheat – gently wave an arm like wheat blowing in the wind

Small barns – make a building shape with two hands

Larger barns – make the same building shape but larger

Massive barns – make an even bigger building (stand up if necessary!)

Party – wave hands about, dance and jig in party mood

Silence – place a finger on your mouth

ACTIVITY STORY

Money problems! We all have them from time to time! Two brothers had big money problems. They were having an argument about how much each should inherit. They wanted Jesus to sort it out. But Jesus wasn't going to get involved. Anyway, they had got their priorities all wrong. Instead, Jesus told them a story.

This is the **rich farmer** who owned lots of **land**.

This is the **seed** that belonged to the **rich farmer**, who owned lots of **land**.

This is the harvest of **wheat**, grown from the **seed** that belonged to the **rich farmer**, who owned lots of **land**.

These are the **small barns**, that tried to store the harvest of **wheat**, grown from the **seed** that belonged to the **rich farmer**, who owned lots of **land**.

These are the **enormous barns**, built instead of the **small barns** that tried to store the harvest of **wheat**, grown from the **seed** that belonged to the **rich farmer**, who owned lots of **land**.

This is the sound of the all-night **party** in the big house, not far from the **enormous barns**, built instead of the **small barns** that tried to store the harvest of **wheat**, grown from the **seed** that belonged to the **rich farmer**, who owned lots of **land**.

But this is the sound of **silence**... after death interrupted the sound of the all-night **party** in the big house, not far from the **enormous barns**, built instead of the **small barns** that tried to store the harvest of **wheat**, grown from the **seed** that

belonged to the **rich farmer**, who owned lots of **land**...

... and who had died, having forgotten that the most important thing in life was to be rich in the sight of God.

Pause.

I wonder, what is it that makes us rich in God's sight? What makes us poor in God's sight? What can we do about it?

Around your tables, discuss what makes us rich or poor in God's sight.

OFFERTORY SONG:

**All I have and all I am is Yours;
There's nothing that I have on earth
That doesn't come from You.
I lay aside my pride and worldly worth;
To serve You is the greatest thing
That I could ever do.**

*For unless You build this house,
I am building it in vain.
Unless the work is Yours,
there is nothing to be gained.
I want something that will stand
when Your holy fire comes;
Something that will last,
and to hear You say 'Well done',
Giving glory to You, Lord,
glory to You, Lord.*

**So easy to desire what others have
Instead of seeing all the gifts
That You have given me.
So help me fan the flame which You
began,
And burn in me a love for You
That all will clearly see.
*For unless You build this house,
I am building it in vain.
Unless the work is Yours,
there is nothing to be gained.
I want something that will stand
when Your holy fire comes;
Something that will last,
and to hear You say 'Well done',
Giving glory to You, Lord,
glory to You, Lord.***

REFLECTION: KINGDOM PARABLES (5) Grand Designs

Have you ever watched Grand Designs with Kevin McCloud, the show where they build ambitious grand homes? You see the grand design and you discover from the people featured how long they think it might take to build their grand design home, and how much they think it will cost to build it. When the building is complete Kevin McCloud discovers how long it actually took to build and how much it actually cost. Often people totally miscalculate the time and cost involved. There is in a sense a grand design in today's kingdom parable – the parable of the rich fool.

The parable is prompted by a family argument about inheritance. Two brothers obviously thought that taking their family dispute to Jesus would solve the matter. However, the man who spoke to Jesus got more than he bargained for.

Jesus refused to be a judge in this situation. Instead, he warned him in this parable about the dangers of greed and selfishness.

In many ways this parable is straightforward. One way of summing up what Jesus says is the saying 'You can't take it with you when you die.' Although most people agree with this statement in their minds, in their hearts they still cling on to the importance of having a healthier bank balance. Back in the 1960's the Beatles sang the song 'Can't buy me love', but we know that money can get us a lot in this life. Yet, here in the parable, the farmer didn't think he had enough, and many people today think this way. We in the west are the rich man in the parable. No wonder Paul warned Timothy that 'the love of money is the root of all evil' (1 Timothy 6:10).

The shock of this parable for those listening to Jesus would have been that this rich man was a fool in God's eyes. At that time and across the centuries, being rich was thought to be a blessing by God. Of course, riches can be a blessing. Yet it is our heart's attitude to wealth that matters, and this man is condemned for getting his priorities all wrong. Although he was blessed with wealth, rather than thinking about giving to the poor or sharing his abundance with others, he is concerned only with his own bank balance and future well-being, stock-piling his fortune for later.

This parable leads to Jesus' teaching about our attitude to possessions. There are many who don't even have the basics in life, and our wealth should be used to help them so that we all live in a more just

and compassionate world. Sharing what we have, rather than building `bigger barns`, means that we are truly rich in God's sight. This is something that the rich fool had not understood.

So, the question that remains is this: Do we have a concern for the poor or do we just care about what we have? Do we only want more and more or are we willing to share?

Let's pray.

Lord, we thank you for this parable and all it teaches us about concern for the poor and living in a world where wealth is shared and your priorities are lived out. Help us not to store up treasures on earth but treasure in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done on earth as in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

SONG:

With a prayer You fed the hungry,
with a cry You stilled the storm;
With a look You had compassion
On the desperate and forlorn.
With a touch You healed the leper,
with a shout You raised the dead;
With a word expelled the demons,

with a blessing broke the bread.

*Love incarnate, love divine,
Captivate this heart of mine
Till all I do speaks of You.*

**As a sheep before the shearer
You were silent in Your pain;
You endured humiliation
at the hands of those You'd made.
And as hell unleashed its fury
You were lifted on a tree,
Crying 'Father God, forgive them,
place their punishment on Me.'**

*Love incarnate, love divine,
Captivate this heart of mine
Till all I do speaks of You.*

**I will feed the poor and hungry,
I will stand up for the truth;
I will take my cross and follow
to the corners of the earth.
And I ask that You so fill me
with Your peace, Your power, Your
breath,
That I never love my life so much
to shrink from facing death.**

*Love incarnate, love divine,
Captivate this heart of mine
Till all I do speaks of You.*

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Gracious Lord, in the fulness of your love, breathe your Spirit into each one of us this week, that we may give ourselves to you without reservation; for your glory's sake. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and with all whom you love, now and for evermore. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve and share
the Lord

In the name of Christ. Amen.