



# 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Luke 12:13–21**

**‘The things you have prepared, whose will they be?’**

At that time: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to them, ‘Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of one’s possessions.’ And he told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, “What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?” And he said, “I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’” But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So is the one who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God.’

## Reflection

Jesus reminds us that life is not about having more stuff. The rich man in the parable thought he was sorted – his future looked comfortable, easy, secure. But he forgot the most important thing: life is a gift, and we’re called to use it well while we have it.

St. Vincent de Paul didn’t build bigger barns or chase riches. He built a life of love, using what he had to serve others. Being “rich towards God” means living generously – sharing time, talents, and compassion with people who need it.

As Vincentians, we ask:

What am I storing up?

And how can I give some of it away today?

Because in the end, it’s not what we keep that matters—but what we give.

## Materials needed

Slips of paper

Pens

Jar or box

## Activity

### Write Your Gifts:

Give each person several slips of paper and a pen. Ask them to write down one gift or talent they feel they have on each slip. Gifts can be anything – skills, qualities, time, kindness, creativity, patience, etc.

### Collect the Gifts:

Have everyone fold their slips and place them into a jar or box.

### Draw and Reflect:

Take turns pulling out a slip from the jar. Read the gift aloud, then ask the group to suggest ways this gift could be shared or used to help others. Write these ideas on the back of the slip.

### Discussion:

After all slips have been read and ideas added, discuss:

- How can sharing our gifts change others’ lives?
- Why is it important not just to keep our gifts to ourselves?

### Call to Action

Encourage each person to pick one gift from the jar (it can be their own or someone else’s) and find a way to share it with someone during the week.

