

In today's Gospel, Luke 12:16-21, we hear the parable of the rich man who pulls down his barns to build larger ones because he had such a fruitful crop. God tells him, "Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" Jesus Christ then said that the person who keeps treasure aside for himself and is not rich towards God is like this man.

Dearest ones, the rich man at the beginning questioned himself what we too may question at times, when he had such an abundant harvest. He asked himself what he should do with all the extra crops that he has been blessed to receive. He had a choice therefore, what to do, and he chose to build bigger barns to store the surplus. Yet, could there have been another choice?

In our lives, do we worry more about storing up for ourselves and relying on ourselves for the future instead of relying on God? Do we neglect to share with others so that we may secure a false sense of placement in life?

What we do with our monetary blessings is representative of our hearts. As Orthodox Christians we are called to trust in God and put Him first. What the rich man did here isn't that he was given even more blessings, but rather that he forgot about God and of his fellow man! He lost sight of the importance of having a relationship with God, and wealth became an idol to him.

Let us recall the two greatest commandments that Jesus Christ proclaimed; to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. May we reflect on today's parable and through our relationship with our loving God, store up our treasure in heaven, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Let us remember that all that has been given to us is from God, and that it isn't ours, but given to us so that we may choose to be good stewards. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever, amen.