

Session Seven · Wealth, Detachment, and Stewardship

The Rich Fool · The Unrighteous Steward · The Talents · Lazarus & the Rich Man

WHAT WE FOUND

Jesus told more parables about money than about prayer, and tonight four of them asked one question: to whom do my possessions actually belong? The Rich Fool built bigger barns and called his goods and his years his own; that very night his life was required of him, and everything he had stored up passed to another. The Unrighteous Steward, rightly read, commends not dishonesty but urgency: use temporary wealth now to make friends that outlast it.

The Talents warned that the deepest failure is not theft but fear that buries the gift; what is entrusted, whether money, time, or ability, is meant to be invested. And Lazarus and the Rich Man revealed the eternal weight of a sin that looks like nothing: not cruelty, but simply never seeing the poor man at the gate. The neglect was the sin.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Basil the Great (c. 330–379) The bread you keep belongs to the hungry, the coat in your closet to the naked; ownership is stewardship, not absolute possession, and hoarded surplus is not safety but peril.

St. John Chrysostom (347–407) The rich man's sin was the failure to see Lazarus at his own gate; and the buried talent is the disciple who guards God's gifts instead of putting them to use.

St. Gregory the Great (540–604) In his Forty Gospel Homilies (Homily 9), the talents include every gift, intelligence, time, opportunity, and faith, and each of us gives an account proportional to what we were given.

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) Private property is licit, but it exists for the universal destination of goods: what we hold beyond real need is, in the face of another's grave need, owed.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

1. Identify one specific item or amount you currently treat as yours but could direct toward someone in need. Direct it this week. Do not wait.
2. Take one gift you have been burying out of fear, a talent, a resource, a willingness to lead or serve, and make one small investment with it this week.
3. Name the Lazarus at your gate and do one thing this week to recognize him by name: bring a meal, sit a while, send support.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Copy it out this week and carry it with you: **Luke 16:13**

WHAT STAYED WITH ME

One line, an image, or a question from tonight that you do not want to lose:

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read ahead: Luke 11:5-13 (the Friend at Midnight) and Luke 18:1-8 (the Persistent Widow).

Catechism: CCC 2401, 2402, 2404, 2447