

WHAT WE FOUND

We read the rich fool by his pronouns, my crops, my barns, my grain, my soul, a soliloquy with no thou in it, and heard St. Basil's verdict: the storehouses he needed were standing ready all along, the mouths of the hungry. We let ravens and lilies reorder our anxiety, and received the study's tenderest sentence: fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom, followed immediately by sell, give alms, because the heart follows the treasure.

We discovered that let your loins be girded and your lamps burning is Exodus 12:11, Passover posture: Israel dressed for departure. Jesus is dressing his disciples for an exodus. We found in 12:47-48 the Lord's own proportioning of guilt to knowledge, one of the scriptural roots of the Church's account of culpability, which informs her distinction between grave and lesser sin (CCC 1854-1864). And asked whether the saved will be few, Jesus answered with an imperative instead of a number: strive (agōnizesthe) to enter by the narrow door, then showed us his heart: a hen gathering her brood under her wings.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Basil the Great (*Homily on Luke 12:18*)

The bread you hold back belongs to the hungry, the cloak in your chest to the naked, the silver in the ground to the needy: we are stewards arraigned for hoarding what was issued for distribution.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Gregory the Great (Forty Gospel Homilies, Homily 31, summarized)

The three years are the long patience of God across the ages, and the gardener's plea is intercession still holding back the axe. What shames us, offered in penance, becomes the fertilizer of fruit. Pressed to a point for our week: the reprieve is a year, not an amnesty.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Cyril of Alexandria (*Commentary on Luke, on the narrow door*)

Asked for statistics, the Lord answered with a summons. The door is narrow not because God grudges entrance but because our self-importance does not fit; the door admits whoever will stoop, and the striving is the stooping.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- Give one thing away this week that costs you something to release. Let your heart follow the treasure.

- Make a concrete plan for Confession if it has been a while; the fig tree's extra year is for fruit.
- Reread Luke 12:35–37 the night before our Session 13. That is all we will say.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Luke 12:32 *Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*

(RSV2CE)

Before next session: read Luke 14:1–15:32, banquets, the cost of discipleship, and three parables about lost things.

Catechism this week: CCC 1854–1864, 305, 2544–2547, 1036, 1431–1439.