**The Parable of the Rich Fool Luke 12:13-21 Sunday 29th June 202**

**Notes for reflection and discussion**

**An unnamed person makes a request: verse 13**

* We are not told much about the person or their circumstances, but it might be helpful to use our imaginations a bit to enter into their dilemma. What do we know about them?
* What does it tell us about them that they came to Jesus with their need?
* In a society in which family was the main source of welfare and financial support, what can we guess about the person’s circumstances?
* What might their feelings have been as they approached Jesus? What do you think about their request?
* While we cannot approach Jesus’s human presence in the way this person could, we can bring our needs to Him in prayer. How do you think you would be praying in similar circumstances?

**Jesus’ initial response: verses 14-15**

* Think for a moment about who Jesus is. What authority does Jesus have?
* We know that Jesus was compassionate and that he was concerned about injustice. (see Matthew 9:36 & Matthew 23:23). So why do you think Jesus responded in the way he did?
* Why do you think Jesus seems more concerned about the danger of covetousness than the apparent injustice of the brother’s behaviour?
* Do you think there are lessons here about the way we view injustices in our own lives and in the world around us and about how we pray about them?

**The story Jesus told: verses 16-20**

* As you read through and reflect on Jesus’ parable, what are the immediate thoughts and feelings you have in response?
* Reflect on the words “But God” in verse 20. How does this phrase change the whole story and what are the implications for us in the way we approach life and relationships?
* What do you think would have been the impact of this story on the person who made the request? Does the rich man in the story sound more like the person or their brother? Does this help us as we think about the injustices around us?

**The conclusion Jesus draws: Verse 21**

* Do you think Jesus’ warning about people “*storing up things for themselves*” means we shouldn’t save for the future? Why or why not?
* What lessons should we draw from this passage about our attitude to and how we use the material things God gives us?
* What do you think Jesus means by being “*rich toward God*”? What steps could we take to become such people?
* If you have time compare this with Paul’s teaching in 1 Timothy 6:6-10 & 17-19