

16th Sunday after Pentecost
25 September 2022

Worship after Serving – 12:30 p.m.

Come to Jesus

Gathering to set the feast tables

Gathering Song & Welcome:
Awaken the Dawn

Table Prayer

"First Course" of the Meal

Grow in His Grace

Scriptures: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Faith Chat:

Scriptures: Luke 12:13-21

Guided Devotion & Bible Study:

*SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE: SIMPLICITY IN A WORLD OF
ACCUMULATION*

"Second Course" of the Meal

Offering *(collected during the meal)*

Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin
against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver
us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the
glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Go in His Power

Blessing

† _____, *child of God,*

*The Father blesses you with his peace
& the riches of his kingdom. Amen.*

Song –

Everywhere I Go

Announcements

Dessert & Clean up!

Show His Love

1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Yet true godliness with contentment is itself great wealth.
⁷ After all, we brought nothing with us when we came into the world, and we can't take anything with us when we leave it.
⁸ So if we have enough food and clothing, let us be content.
⁹ But people who long to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many foolish and harmful desires that plunge them into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

¹¹ But you, Timothy, are a man of God; so run from all these evil things. Pursue righteousness and a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight for the true faith. Hold tightly to the eternal life to which God has called you, which you have declared so well before many witnesses. ¹³ And I charge you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, ¹⁴ that you obey this command without wavering. Then no one can find fault with you from now until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

¹⁵ For, At just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. ¹⁶ He alone can never die, and he lives in light so brilliant that no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honour and power to him forever! Amen.

¹⁷ Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. ¹⁹ By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.

Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Then someone called from the crowd, "Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me." ¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?" ¹⁵ Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."

¹⁶ Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. ¹⁷ He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. ¹⁹ And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' ²¹ "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."

**16th Sunday after Pentecost - 25 Sept 2022 -
Worship after Serving @ Fun Run – 12:30 p.m.**

SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE: SIMPLICITY IN A WORLD OF ACCUMULATION

SONG & WELCOME

Wow! What a morning! Grab a seat & we'll get to the food in just a minute...Over the course of the meal together we'll be continuing to explore our worship/teaching theme Spiritual Intelligence. We've said all along: SI is **NOT** how much you know but how to discern right/wrong, good/evil, beautiful & true/horrendous & false...Spiritual Intelligence is wisdom leading you to what is life-giving & God-honouring. It's walking the pathway of abundant life & impact in Jesus' Name. It's finding your deepest contentment, greatest value & highest joy not in storing up things of this life, but in life that is given away to other for others. Spiritual Intelligence is **you** maturing in likeness to Jesus Christ. Let's use the table prayer on the Growing Praise together... (offering will pass during meal)

BIBLE READING

FAITH CHAT

vs 6 - How do you define "contentment"?
When was your life most like that?

NEXT BIBLE READING

How many of you collect or store things? Whether it's collectible things or just you manage to accumulate stuff...hands up? Why? Is there some benefit or payoff to those things stored around your place? No judgment...just curious.

I want to start briefly with Luke so keep that out where you can see it..."Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate with me."

What's in play there? What emotions attitudes values are in the mix? Have you ever been part of something like that? How'd that work out?

Is "contentment" a part of that? Why/not? What do you make of Jesus' response? *Life is not measured by \$\$\$/stuff/accumulations*. Why would someone think it is? Is accumulation a 21st Century value? How do you see that played out?

Why is that a problem?

Let's look at the rest of Jesus' answer...parable. At 1st glance what do you see there? How is the farmer any different from any of us? Isn't it wise & responsible to work hard & save wisely?

What did he miss?

The rich farmer is a fool not because he is wealthy or because he saves for the future, but because he appears to live only for himself, & because he believes **only he** can secure his life with his abundant possessions.

NB: When the rich man talks in this parable, he talks only to himself & the only person he refers to is himself. He rebuilds his entire existence for only his own benefit & purpose.

What's missing? Obvious answer is God. You're a "fool" Jesus says if you forget that no matter your circumstance **You are the recipient of abundant grace**. His land has produced abundantly, but there is no sense of gratitude to God for his good fortune, or any appreciation for the workers who helped him plant/nurture/harvest this crop.

He has years of supply in storage, but exhibits no thought of sharing it with others & no concept that he is accountable to God for all things. It's all him. You're a "fool" Jesus says if you forget that no matter your circumstance **You are the recipient of abundant grace**.

I think too often we measure our lives by what we **DO NOT HAVE** & tell ourselves we've been shortchanged by God because we don't/can't have what someone else has in quantity & it sets us up striving for the unattainable contentment in "some-thing" rather than **SomeOne**.

The other thing that has happened in my lifetime is the deliberate confusion of "wants" & "needs" by the mktg/mfg industrial giants. *"Civilization has become the limitless multiplication of unnecessary necessities."*

We encounter something like 4K ads/day. All designed to create in us desires/wants born of a discontent with our current situation. Deep down we sort of understand that more "things" just like more \$\$\$ will not necessarily lead to satisfaction contentment happiness enjoyment or add years to our lives...but that clamouring inside persists.

No amount of wealth, prosperity, or accumulation can prevent illness, injury or infirmity. No amount of wealth can keep our relationships healthy or our families from falling apart...those things can become a wedge like the brothers debating dad's leftovers.

Most importantly, no amount of wealth can make us right with God...or make us good apprentices to Jesus. Those are in fact some of the greatest obstacles because they cause us to see the world through the eyes of the prosperous farmer...our

entire existence for only our own benefit & purpose.
Accumulations blind us to God & our neighbour.
And we see what that gets...

Quickly to 1st Timothy 6...How does Paul define "great wealth"? What does that look like? Begins knowing that because Christ has claimed me & his Spirit is at work in me...I can expend myself

- doing good (for others)
- being rich in good deeds (to others)
- generosity/willingness to share (with others)

vs 17-19 (anchored in the assurance of 11-16)

It's a life of multiplying blessings in the sharing & building relationships that last...living from a spirit that mirrors the Spirit of the God, living in his economy of sharing as there are needs & finding joy & contentment in seeing the work of God through your hands. It's knowing every material thing here on earth is fleeting & true treasures are stored in heaven as we live rich towards God & his kingdom. True godliness is seeking the way of Christ for his glory, never our own.

We noted earlier that accumulation is a 21st Century value...But Jesus points a completely different direction...simplicity borne of contentment...

"Life is not measured by how much you own."

"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs."

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

"I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

"You cannot serve God & money."

Interesting thing about that last one...Roman Empire was awash in gods...especially worship of Caesar as god-on-earth. The only god Jesus names opposed to the Father (true God) is \$\$\$ & doesn't say "you *SHOULD* not" but you "**CANNOT**."

Jesus speaks more often about financial issues than any other thing...Why? May be it's that we will always be tempted toward accumulation. But once Jesus shifts our hearts his way, we discover **The things of deepest contentment, greatest value & highest joy cannot be stored they can only be shared.**

Simplicity is to pare down to the important & essential so that there's room for God & others.

We talked earlier about stuff we store – hoard – accumulate. All of that...landfill one day...or squandered by ungrateful relatives or strangers.

BUT...compassion – kindness – love – joy – peace – patience – goodness – gentleness – faithfulness – self-control – forgiveness – servanthood –

Would you rather hang out with someone who shares those things or stores the other stuff?

The things of deepest contentment, greatest value & highest joy cannot be stored they can only be shared.

SI is **NOT** how much you know but how to discern right/wrong, good/evil, beautiful & true/horrendous & false...Spiritual Intelligence is wisdom leading you to what is life-giving & God-honouring. It's walking the pathway of abundant life & impact in Jesus' Name. It's finding your deepest contentment, greatest value & highest joy not in storing up things of this life, but in life that is given away to others for others. Spiritual Intelligence is **you** maturing in likeness to Jesus Christ.

Any other observations...?

Someone's going to pray for us...

If there's time...

6:19-20 – Don't store up treasure here where it fades & fools you...store up unfading treasure in heaven...where your treasure is there is your heart as well

"Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!" – Mt 6:22-23

"Healthy Eye" = focused intentional generous open-hearted

"Unhealthy" = scattered distracted self-absorbed all over the shop

24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one & love the other; you will be devoted to one & despise the other. You cannot serve God & money.

25 "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to drink, or clothes...Isn't life more than food, & your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? 28 "And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field; how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 If God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today & thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 "So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, & live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."