

*Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025 10 am*

Parable of the rich fool

Welcome *For the Sabbath day. "It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night."*

Psalm 92:1-2

Hymn MP 708 To God be the Glory

Scripture Psalm 91 (page 600)

Prayer

Children's talk Nabal

Chorus MP

MP

Notices: Masfield progress, prayer sheet.

Harvest next Sunday bring

produce, Saturday set up

Sunday pm & Thursday prayer time.

No student

BCM Annual Celebration 18<sup>th</sup> Oct

Prayer time & Lord's prayer

Reading Luke 17:24-37 (page 1051)

Luke 12:13-21 (page 1045)

Psalm 39:4-11 (page 566) [Psalm 53:1-3 (page 574)]

Hymn MP 1338 - Now when peace like a river

Sermon The fool

Hymn MP 1334 Cornerstone (NLBC 3:44)

Prayer

Close

### *Prayer*

*When I was in Suriname I saw many derelict houses, huge house, often half completed, just left for years. The person is in prison, or has died. These IMPRESSIVE palatial structures are slowing rotting away. The owners clearly had grand designs – but they came to nothing, they are but the unrealised dreams of a fool.*

Today we will look at the parable of the rich fool. Why did Jesus tell this parable? A man had asked him a question, and his question as is usually the case, revealed his attitude. A foolish attitude.

In chapter 12 we see Jesus speaking to the crowds

國王諾頓浸信會

2025年10月5日，星期日，上午10點

愚昧財主的比喻

歡迎來到安息日。

「至高者啊，讚美耶和華，歌頌你的名，早晨傳揚你的慈愛，晚上傳揚你的信實，這為善。」（詩篇 92:1-2）

聖詩 MP 708 願榮耀歸與上帝

經文：詩篇 91（頁600）

禱告

兒童講座：拿八

合唱 MP

MP

通知：梅斯菲爾德的進展，禱告單。

下週日收穫，帶來農產品，週六佈置。

週日下午和週四禱告時間。

無學生

BCM 週年慶典 10月18日

禱告時間及主禱文

誦讀路加福音 17:24-37（頁1051）

路加福音 12:13-21（頁1045）

詩篇 39:4-11（頁566）[詩篇 53:1-3（頁574）]

聖詩 MP 1338 - 如今平安如河

講道：愚昧人

聖詩 MP 1334 基石（NLBC 3:44）

禱告

結束

禱告

當我在蘇利南時，我看到許多廢棄的房屋，那些巨大的房子，通常只完成了一半，就被廢棄了好幾年。有人在監獄裡，或者已經過世了。這些令人印象深刻的宮殿建築正在慢慢腐爛。顯然，這些業主有著宏偉的計劃——

但他們的計劃最終都落空了，只不過是愚昧人未實現的夢想。

今天，我們來看看這個關於財主的比喻。

耶穌為什麼要講這個比喻？一個人問了他一個問題，而他的問題像往常一樣，暴露了他的態度——一種愚昧的態度。

在第12章中，我們看到耶穌向眾人傳講神的國。耶

about the kingdom of God. Jesus had been saying that everyone should fear God for He alone has the power to throw a man or woman into hell. Fear God, honour him -and trust Him. As God cares for even the little sparrows v6 how much more will he care for you. He knows the hairs on our heads v7 So look to him, do not worry, trust me he says here and v22 onwards.

- **Therein lies the secret of happiness. Rest in God's promises and He will make you the happiest man or woman, boy or girl in the world. Let us all look to Him, fear Him and trust in him. Amen?**

Suddenly in the middle of his teaching Jesus is interrupted. v13, it's **someone in the crowd** who says: **"Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."** This is not a question about spiritual things, for this man's mind is not on what Jesus has been saying, he is thinking about how not to miss out on a share of money. His mind is on worldly possessions.

The man from heaven is speaking of heavenly and eternal things, this man has his heart and mind on his money. No wonder Jesus calls him a fool.

- **A fool is he who when told what he should do, then does the opposite.**

Imagine someone stops in a car outside here and asks for directions. You tell her to go right, and she then goes left, that is what a fool does

That is why he is a fool, Jesus has been opening the door to the kingdom of God for him – and this man is determined to shut himself out.

He was probably the youngest of two brothers and was reliant on the older brother. This man knew Jesus to be a Rabbi, and as a teacher of the Law could be called upon to help in disputes. Would Jesus intervene in this matter so that he would have a favourable outcome? Would Jesus stop what he is doing to make sure his brother gives him his inheritance?

14 **Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?"** Jesus will not become the Judge and legislator of this man's estate. - But he will be the judge of the man's heart.

Jesus knowing this man's heart and mind is on his money warns the crowd 15 **"Watch out! Yes says, watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed. Stand guard, against this hidden sin of greed. It's serious; For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.** Eph 5:5

- **Don't shut yourself out!**

耶穌一直在說，每個人都應該敬畏上帝，因為只有上帝才有權柄把一個人丟進地獄。敬畏上帝，尊崇他，信靠他。上帝連小麻雀都顧念（第6節），何況你們呢？他知道我們頭上的頭髮（第7節）。所以，仰望他，不要擔心，相信我，他在這裡以及第22節之後都這麼說。

□

幸福的秘訣就在於此。安息在上帝的應許中，祂會讓你成為世界上最幸福的男人、女人、男孩或女孩。讓我們都仰望他，敬畏他，信靠他。阿們？

耶穌正講道的時候，突然被打斷了。

13節，人群中有人說：「夫子，請你吩咐我的兄弟和我分家事。」

這個問題與屬靈的事無關，因為這個人的心思不在耶穌所說的話上，他想的是如何不錯過任何一筆錢財。他想的都是世俗的財富。

這位從天上來的人講的是屬天和永恆的事，而這個人的心思卻放在金錢上。難怪耶穌稱他為愚昧人。

□

愚昧人就是被告知該做什麼，卻反其道而行之的人。

想像一下，有人把車停在外面問路。你告訴她往右走，她卻往左走，這就是愚昧人的做法。

這就是為什麼他是個愚昧人，耶穌一直在為他打開神國的大門——

而這個人卻執意要把自己拒之門外。

他可能是兄弟倆中最小的，而且非常依賴哥哥。這個人知道耶穌是拉比，身為律法教師，他可以幫忙解決爭議。耶穌會介入此事，讓他得到有利的結果嗎？耶穌會停下手邊的工作，確保他的兄弟把遺產交給他嗎？

14

耶穌回答說：「你這個人，誰立我作你們斷事的官，作你們仲裁的呢？」耶穌不會成為這人產業的審判官和立法者，而是會判斷這人的內心。

耶穌知道這個人一心只想著錢財，便警告眾人。 15

「你們要謹慎！是的，說：要謹慎！你們要防備一切貪婪。要防備這隱藏的貪婪之罪。這罪的嚴重性在於：因為你們確實地知道：凡淫亂的，是污穢的，是有貪心的，在基督和神的國裡都是無分的。這樣的人就與拜的偶像一樣。」

The word greed is *pleonexias* <sup>g4124</sup> and normally translated **covetousness**, or **craving**. It is very descriptive, it literally means: the thirst for having more, always having more and more and still more.

- It is as if a man tries to quench his thirst by drinking salt water. This makes him still more thirsty. So he drinks again and again and again, until – never satisfied – his thirst kills him.

**covetousness** is the uncontrolled yearning to have . . . have . . . have. Commandment no.10 "**Do not covet**" at Crusaders with actions "Gimme gimme!" It is the gateway sin by which others to be broken.

And how so today! Encouraging covetousness is the way the world works with its advertising industry, its large retail and sales drives! More, more!

Jesus tells warns them, as he warns us, do not become enslaved by greed, **a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**

Covetousness, and the desire to have more and more exposes a heart with a fundamentally wrong philosophy of life.

Ask yourself: "Am I a greedy person? Am I a selfish person? Do I have a yearning for material possessions? Am I looking out for honour, or for prestige? For recognition and position? or

Is your joy in giving, and in helping others? If not, then watch out for the secret sin of covetousness. guard your hearts lest covetousness sneaks in.

Jesus says 16 "**The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop.**

Had this man gained his wealth by dishonest means? No hint of that. Nor does Scripture condemn success or riches as such. Many in the Bible had riches, no that is not the problem, it is what you do with them, how you relate to them. If you have money, then watch the workings of your heart!

What was really wrong becomes clear from v17—19. When he saw he had an extraordinary crop, this man carried on a dialogue with himself, 17 **He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'** Instead of *thanking* God for them, or rejoicing in the chance of doing good and helping others, his thoughts are on himself. **'What shall I do?** Was he thinking how best he could bring an offering to God to say thank you?, no, it was **what shall I do** to protect and preserve my wealth. Little did he know that a man's ways

□ 不要把自己拒於門外！

貪婪這個字是 *pleonexias*

<sup>g4124</sup>，通常翻譯為貪婪或渴求。它非常形象，字面上是：渴望擁有更多，總是想要更多、更多、更多。

□

就好像一個人試圖透過喝鹽水來解渴。這讓他更渴。於是他一次又一次地喝，直到——永不滿足——他的口渴將他殺死。

貪婪是無法控制地渴望擁有……擁有……擁有。十誡中第十條“不可貪婪”，十字軍用行動表達“給我，給我！”這是打破他人罪惡的入門之道。

如今更是如此！這個世界的廣告業、龐大的零售和促銷活動都在鼓勵貪婪！更多，更多！

耶穌告誡他們，正如祂告誡我們一樣，不要被貪婪奴役，人的生命不在於擁有的豐富。

貪婪和對越來越多的渴望暴露了一顆有著根本錯誤人生哲學的心。

問問自己：「我是一個貪婪的人嗎？我是一個自私的人嗎？我渴望物質財富嗎？我追求的是榮譽、聲望、認同和地位嗎？還是

你樂於施捨和幫助他人嗎？

「如果沒有，那麼就要警惕貪婪的秘密罪惡。要保守你們的心，免得貪婪偷偷溜進來。

耶穌說：16「有一個財主，地裡出產豐收。

這個人是用不誠實的手段獲得財富的嗎？沒有絲毫暗示。聖經也沒有譴責成功或財富本身。聖經裡有很多人擁有財富，不，這不是問題，問題在於你如何使用它們，如何與它們相處。如果你有錢，那就要注意你內在的運作！

真正的問題從17-

19節開始變得清晰。當他看到自己出產豐收時，這個人心裡想著：17他心裡想著：『我該怎麼辦？我沒有地方收藏我的生產。

’他沒有為這些出產感謝上帝，也沒有為行善和幫助他人的機會而高興，而是想著自己。

’我該怎麼辦？

』他是不是在想如何才能最好地向上帝獻上禮物來表達感謝？不，他想的是，我該怎麼做才能保護和保存我的財富。他不知道人的一切行為都在神面前

are in full view of God, God is watching!

Life is all about relationships, my relationship with God, my relationship with others, my relationships with things and my relationship with myself. As we are driven by one heart - these are all intertwined.

18 **"Then he said, to himself 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.**

Can you see how many times 'I' is there! I, I, I, I, It is all about him, his thoughts are on himself. This is his problem and Jesus knows it.

**And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years.**

Then I will live; Not now – he dreamt confident of a secure future when he could enjoy his goods for years to come and be happy.

He laid in bed with all his plans buzzing round his head about building the bigger barns, lying and planning, he would need more servants to get things ready and to prepare his food and drink, and he would need friends to share his drinking and eating with. Oh how good the prospects were. And then *I will*, **"Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."** I'll be happy.

Maybe on the outside this man was like any other Jew, he went to a place of worship and said and did much of what other did. Yet for all practical purposes this man is an atheist. This rich man does not thank and glorify God. There is no **"Bless Jehovah, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits!"** There's no humble **"Who am I that you have brought me so far? What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits toward me?"** No, nothing of the kind. What does he say? 'Take it easy; eat, drink, and have a good time'!

There is no room in his heart for God. He thought his life was fine and would be fine. Little did consider that in his wealth a guilty conscience will rob him of his ease. There is no peace for the wicked.

### **Foolishness**

20 **But God said to him, 'You fool'!** x2 you *Nabal*, alluding to the story of Nabal, the fool laid bare in 1 Sam 25. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. His heart was struck dead *as a stone* when he became aware of God's Judgment hanging over him for his meanness towards David's men.

The selfish and worldly-minded are fools. The day is coming when God will call them by their own name, you *'fool'*, they will call themselves so.

Like Belshazzar who was struck with terror by the

，神在看著！

生命的意義在於人際關係，我與神的關係，我與他人的關係，我與事物的關係，以及我與自己的關係。當我們同心合意時，這些關係就交織在一起。

18

「他心裡說：『我要這樣行：我要把我的倉房拆了，另蓋更大的，在那裡要儲藏我一切的糧食和財物。』

你看，這裡出現了多少個『我』！我，我，我，我，我，我，一切都是為了他，他只想著自己。這是他的問題，耶穌知道這一點。

我會對自己說：“你積攢了很多好東西，可以用很多年。”

這樣我就能活下去了；不是現在——他夢想著一個安穩的未來，可以在未來幾年裡享受他的財富，幸福快樂。

他躺在床上，腦子裡盤旋著各種計劃：建造更大的穀倉，埋頭苦幹，籌劃未來；他需要更多的僕人來準備一切，準備食物和飲料，他需要朋友來分享他的飲食。哦，前景多麼美好。然後我會說：「放輕鬆，吃吃喝喝，盡情快樂。」我會很開心。

也許從外表來看，這個人和其他猶太人沒什麼兩樣，他去禮拜場所，說的話和做的話也和其他人一樣。然而，實際上，這個人是個無神論者。這個有錢人沒有感謝和榮耀上帝。他沒有「我的心哪，你要稱頌耶和華，不可忘記他的一切恩惠！」他沒有謙卑地問：「我是誰，你竟帶我到這地步？我拿什麼報答主對我的一切恩惠？」沒有，什麼也沒有。他說了什麼？“放輕鬆，吃吃喝喝，好好享受吧！”

他的心裡沒有上帝的位置。他以為自己生活得很好，而且會一直很好。他沒有想到，財富帶來的罪惡感會奪走他的安逸。惡人不得安寧。

愚昧

20 神卻對他說：「你這愚昧人！」 x2

你這拿八，指的是撒母耳記上25章中揭露的拿八的故事，那個愚昧人。他的名字叫拿八，他愚昧無知。當他意識到神的審判即將來臨到他，因為他對大衛手下的卑鄙行徑，他的心如死灰。

自私自利、世俗至上的人都是愚昧人。神終有一天會直呼他們的名字，你這“愚昧人”，他們也會這樣稱呼自己。

hand-writing on the wall, in the midst of his jollity.

20 **God said to him, 'You fool! x2**

- **A fool knows he should do A and does B. A fool acts illogically, a fool is unreasonable, a fool is erratic, irrational, unreliable.**
- **I could tell him his car wheel would come off if he drove on the motorway - but he will do it anyway.**

Proverbs are not for fools but for the wise, for a fool won't learn. A fool doesn't listen, you cannot reason with a fool, that is why one needs a rod for the back of a fool, that is the only way to correct a fool.

- **If you son or daughter is a fool, that will be what is needed to restrain him or her from a life of folly. You must restrain them, otherwise they are heading for hell, and you will be to blame.**

- **Foolishness - the opposite of wisdom - is self-destructive.**

Romans 1 says that the moment mankind sinned we all became fools.

When Adam and Eve disobeyed the Lord God in the garden of Eden, the moment they stopped trusting God, and trusted their own judgment, they believed a lie. They, once so wise, became fools.

And a fool cannot make a proper judgement of anything, including his own heart **Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools. They had exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images, idols.** Romans 1:18-23

- **To a fool the truth of God is foolishness – and foolishness is wisdom.**

In Romans 1 we read that we all **suppress the truth by our wickedness.**

We are surrounded by such overwhelming and obvious evidence for God. **What may be known about God is plain to us, because God has made it plain to us. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse....**

The result is **futile thinking** and our hearts, now **foolish** are **darkened**.

God calls this man "Fool," and a fool he was. The word fool appears 180 time in the bible (139OT/41NT). there are no shortage of fools there, there are no shortage of fools today.

But the word Jesus uses here for fool is *aphron* g878 and only occurs 11 times. It is someone who

就像伯沙撒一樣，在歡樂之中，被牆上的字跡嚇得魂飛魄散。

20 神對他說：「你這愚昧人！」 x2

□

愚昧人明知應該做A，卻做了B。愚昧人行事不合邏輯，愚昧人不講道理，愚昧人反覆無常，不講道理，不可靠。

□

我可以告訴他，如果他在高速公路上開車，他的車輪都會掉下來——但他還是會這麼做。

諺語不是給愚昧人聽的，而是給聰明人聽的，因為愚昧人不會學習。愚昧人不會聽，你無法與愚昧人講道理，這就是為什麼要用棍子打愚昧人的背，這是糾正愚昧人的唯一方法。

□

如果你的兒子或女兒是個愚昧人，那就需要用棍子來阻止他或她過愚昧的生活。你必須約束他們，否則他們就會走向地獄，而你就是罪魁禍首。

□ 愚昧——智慧的反面——是自我毀滅。

羅馬書1章說，人類犯罪的那一刻，我們都成了愚昧人。

當亞當和夏娃在伊甸園違背上帝時，當他們不再信靠上帝，而相信自己的判斷時，他們就相信了謊言。他們曾經如此聰明，現在卻成了愚昧人。

愚昧人無法正確判斷任何事，包括自己的心。他們自稱聰明，卻成了愚昧人。他們用偶像取代了不朽之神的榮耀。羅馬書 1:18-23

□

對愚昧人而言，神的真理是愚拙的，而愚拙卻是智慧的。

在羅馬書第一章中，我們讀到，我們都因自己的邪惡而阻擋了真理。

我們周圍充滿瞭如此確鑿而明顯的神蹟。關於神的事，我們所能知道的都清楚明白，因為神已經向我們顯明了。自從造天地以來，神的永能和神性是明明可知的，雖是眼不能見，但藉著所造之物就可以曉得，叫人無可推諉.....

結果，我們的思念變成虛妄，愚昧的心就昏暗了。

神稱這個人為“愚昧人”，他的確是個愚昧人。

「愚昧人」一詞在聖經中出現了180次（舊約139章/新約41章）。那裡不乏愚昧人，今天也不乏愚昧人。

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但耶穌在這裡用來表示愚昧人的字是 *aphron*

g878，只出現了11次。愚昧人指的是那些沒有頭腦的人，暗指愚蠢、無知、自負、魯莽、不信。這個

is mindless, and by implication stupid, ignorant, egotistic, rash, unbelieving. This man is self-absorbed...in his heart there is no room for God. He is facing Hell and before him is Jesus the Saviour!

- **A fool is someone who knows his life is short but lives as if it is eternal**
- **A fool is someone who knows there will be a day he will have to give an account but carries on regardless.**

He thinks that he had no need of God, that he himself is control of his life, "*the master of his fate and the captain of his soul.*"

How wrong he is. God's sentence is soon upon him – and it is a sentence of death: **This very night your life will be demanded from you.** x2

His soul is not required of him in 'many years time' but "**this very night.**" He hadn't expected that. "Not now, not yet"

A good man, who has taken his heart off from this world, cheerfully resigns his soul at death, and gives it up; but a worldly man has it *torn* from him with violence. He hates to give it up. It is a terror to him to think of leaving this world. But when God requires it – he will have it. Only a fearful expectation of hell awaits the fool.

#### What were his mistakes?

He *lays up treasure for himself* that should be his for many years. They are for *himself* in opposition to God. But he must part from them *this night*. He thought he should enjoy, but he mistook eternity for time and now must leave them - **then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?**

He mistook his soul for his body – He consider that he himself was his *flesh*, as if the *body* were the *man*. But Jesus says the flesh counts for nothing. In his wrong understanding of God, he had sold out His soul.

He had the wrong treasure, in the wrong place. A Christian lays up treasure in heaven, for that is where we will soon be. It is wise to plan for then. **If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you will suffer.** Prov 9:12

#### **Jesus concludes**

21 **"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God."**

The greatest error of all is that he is in no care to be *rich towards God*,

Are you rich towards God? Are you storing up treasures in heaven? How is your account in the bank of God? is it filling up? Will you believe the Lord's way is not only best for Him – but that it is also best for you?

人只顧自己.....他的心裡沒有上帝的位置。他正面臨地獄，而救主耶穌就在他面前！

□ 愚昧人明知生命短暫，卻活得彷彿永恆。

□

愚昧人明知終有一天要為此負責，卻依然不顧一切地繼續生活。

他認為自己不需要上帝，他自己掌控自己的人生，「是自己命運的主宰，是自己靈魂的統帥」。

他大錯特錯。上帝的判決即將來臨祂——而且是死刑：就在今夜，你的生命將被索回。 x2

他的靈魂並非「多年後」才被取回，而是「就在今晚」。他沒想到這一點。“不是現在，還不是。”

一個善良的人，把自己的心從這個世界上解脫出來，在死亡時欣然辭世，放棄了自己的靈魂；但一個世俗的人卻用暴力將靈魂從他身上奪走。他不願放棄它。想到要離開這個世界，他就感到恐懼。但當上帝需要它時——

他就會得到它。等待愚昧人的，只有地獄般的恐懼。

他犯了什麼錯？

他為自己積蓄本該用很多年的財寶。這些財寶是為祂自己而生的，與上帝為敵。但他今晚必須與它們分開。祂以為應該享受，卻把永恆誤認為是時間，現在必須離開它們——那麼，誰會得到你為自己預備的呢？

他誤將靈魂當成了身體——他認為自己就是他的肉體，彷彿身體就是這個人。但耶穌說，肉體毫無價值。他錯誤地理解了上帝，出賣了自己的靈魂。

他把錯誤的財寶放在了錯誤的地方。基督徒會把財寶累積在天上，因為那是我們即將去的地方。為那時做計劃是明智的。如果你明智，你的智慧會獎勵你；如果你褻慢人，你就會受苦。箴言 9:12

耶穌總結道

21

“凡為自己積財，在神面前卻不富足的，也是這樣。”

最大的錯誤在於他根本不關心在神面前富足。

你在神面前富足嗎？你在天上積蓄財寶了嗎？你在神銀行的帳戶怎麼樣？它滿了嗎？你相信主的道路不只對祂最好，對你也是最好的嗎？

耶穌繼續說「不要為生命憂慮」（22節），因為31節說，如果你尋求神的國，你就會擁有你所需要的

Jesus goes on to say “**do not worry about your life**” v22 for v31 if you **seek God's kingdom you will** have all you need. x2! Matt 6:33. Will you live like that? A Christian has his life's aim set on God Himself - and the accomplishment of His purpose here? Have you?

- **Jonathan Edwards said: “He who sincerely prefers God to all other things in his heart will do it in his practice”.**

The foolish man did not see that he was made to live before God in eternity? He did not see that his real purpose is to meditate upon, study and apply the word of God. To be taught in the school of prayer. He is to nurture Communion with God. He or she is to be active in God's work, to be in fellowship with others who are born again children of God living out his new life within the Body of Christ. It is here that the Lord **sandpapers us down to rid us of our rough edges and sharp corners**. It is here we are smoothed to fit together for eternity.

The wise man knows he needs to learn about Christian service. To give his attention to God's work in the world. All this matures him, deepens his relationship with God and prepares him for heaven.

The fool has his mind on earthly things. **What of your conversation? Is it 95% about material things - are spiritual things all but absent?**

How do you spend your time each week? How do you fare if you divide up how many hours you give to eating, sleeping, and entertainments, TV and phone compared to being time dedicated to the things of the Lord? Do you find that material things vastly outnumbered the spiritual?

Are your interests in check, legitimate though they might be, are subservient to our need to give priority to the service of God?

What does the One who called you to Himself think of the amount of time you set aside for prayer, for meditation, for Bible study and for being present with the Lord's people? Is it no more than a long hour on Sunday mornings? When you could, without much difficulty do more? Our value system is damaged when we go out for other things but do not see the importance of being present on the Lord's Day evening or the midweek meeting for Bible and Prayer.

To neglect our spiritual selves, to not have it as the priority, is to fail to understand that actually, God has put these things in place for our good. They are for our benefit that we might become stronger and more effective people in his service.

一切。

x2! 馬太福音6:33。你會這樣生活嗎？基督徒的人生目標設定在神身上——以及祂在這世上旨意的成就？你做到了嗎？

□

喬納森·愛德華茲說：“凡在心裡真心愛神勝過一切的人，必在實踐中做到這一點。”

愚昧的人沒有看見祂被造是為了在永恆中活在神面前嗎？他沒有看到他真正的目的是默想、學習和應用神的話語。在禱告學校裡接受教導。他要培養與神的交通。他或她要積極參與神的工作，與其他重生的神兒女在基督的身體裡活出新生命的人相交。正是在這裡，主用砂紙磨平我們，除去我們稜角分明的缺點。正是在這裡，我們被打磨得光滑，以便永恆地契合在一起。

明智的人知道他需要學習基督徒的服侍，專注於神在世上的工作。這一切都使他成熟，加深他與神的關係，並為他進入天堂做好準備。

愚昧的人心思放在世俗的事上。你的談話內容呢？95%都是關於物質的一屬靈的事情幾乎不存在嗎？你每週是如何安排時間的？如果你把用於吃飯、睡覺、娛樂、看電視和打電話的時間與用於主的事的時間做對比，你會覺得如何？你是否發現物質的東西遠遠超過了屬靈的東西？

你的興趣與嗜好，即使可能合情合理，是否也服從於我們優先服事上帝的需要？

呼召你歸向祂的那位，對你撥出的時間，用於禱告、默想、研讀聖經以及與主的子民相聚，有何看法？難道這些時間不過是周日早上漫長的一小時嗎？而你本來可以毫不費力地做更多？當我們忙於其他事情，卻忽略了在主日晚上或周中研讀聖經和禱告聚會中的重要性時，我們的價值體系就被破壞了。

忽視我們的屬靈自我，不將其作為優先事項，就是未能理解上帝設立這些事其實是為了我們的益處。它們是為了我們的益處，使我們在服事祂的過程中成為更強大、更有效的人。而我們忽略它們，會將我們的屬靈生命置於危險之中。如果你的優先事項是基督和祂的國度，你就會渴望這些時刻。選擇其他事情會讓你因此而更加貧乏，也會讓其他人因為

And we neglect them at our spiritual peril. If your priority is Christ and his kingdom you will long for these moments. To be choosing something else will leave you are poorer for it, - and others poorer for your absence. This is why some of you have lost your joy, for you very much get out what you put in. And the more we neglect them the more we are aligned with this fool in this story.

The parable gives us the life and death of a *rich man*, and leaves us to judge whether he was a *happy* man. No. His life is one of sorrow.

It is deeply unsatisfying because it doesn't have this service for God dimension in it. The fool walked into the presence of God empty handed. Anything he thought he has would be taken away. When Jesus Christ became your Lord and saviour, you became servants. We became soldiers. We became followers, disciples of Christ. Remember when you came up out of the water of baptism, you stood a new person totally dedicated to Christ. He said to us. "Now live that life, put me first". He gave you a new priority for life. Our spiritual lives are impoverished when we neglect. Let us not be like the fool this morning who built on sand. Let us hear God's word and obey it. The it will go well with our soul.

### **What should we do?**

Pray **"Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life."** Ps 39:4 **Teach me to number my days aright, that I may gain a heart of wisdom.** Ps 90:12

Let us end with a prayer that was prayed here on April fools day 1990. Gracious Father we ask now that you will help each one of us to turn aside from our foolishness and learn again the great lesson that to put Christ at the centre of life is to live the most joyful and the most wonderful, fulfilled life that any human being can live, however long or short that life may be. Heavenly Father grant us a vision this morning of what it is to be a wise man, a wise woman and may we live for Jesus every day, we ask it in his name. And for his sake. Amen. END

你的缺席而更加貧乏。這就是為什麼你們有些人失去了喜樂，因為你們付出多少，得到的也多少。我們越是忽視它們，就越像故事裡那個愚昧人。

這個比喻講述了一個富人的生死，讓我們去判斷他是否快樂。不，他的一生充滿悲傷。

他的一生令人深感不滿足，因為其中沒有事奉上帝的次元。這位愚昧人空手來到上帝面前。他以為擁有的一切，都被奪走了。

當耶穌基督成為你們的主和救主時，你們就成了僕人。我們成了精兵。我們成了基督的跟隨者、門徒。記住，當你們從洗禮的水中出來時，你們是一個完全獻身於基督的新人。他對我們說：「現在活出這樣的生活，把我放在第一位。」他給了你們新的人生優先次序。當我們忽視時，我們的靈性生活就會變得貧瘠。讓我們不要像今天早上那個在沙土上建造的愚昧人一樣。讓我們聆聽上帝的話語並遵行。這對我們的靈魂來說會很美好。

我們該怎麼做？

我們該怎麼做？

禱告：「耶和華啊，求你指示我，我生命之終，我年日的數目；求你使我知道我的生命如何短暫。」

詩篇 39:4

求你指教我怎樣數算我的日子，使我得著智慧的心。詩篇 90:12

讓我們以1990年愚人節的禱告來結束今天的禱告。仁慈的天父，我們祈求祢幫助我們每一個人遠離愚昧，重新學習那偉大的功課：以基督為生命的中心，就能活出最喜樂、最美好、最充實的人生，無論人生長短。願天父今天早上賜給我們一個異象，讓我們明白如何成為一個有智慧的男人和女人。願我們每天為耶穌而活，奉祂的名祈求。也為他的緣故。阿們。結束