

## Scripture Reading

### A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke (Luke 12: 16-21)

Then He told them a parable. "There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods and I shall say to myself, "Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!"' But God said to him, 'You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for the one who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God." The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Reflection – Our soul, more precious than the whole physical universe

**Our soul created by God to be immortal is most precious (cf. CCC 363).** It is by our soul that we are most especially in God's image. *It is a human body precisely because it is animated by a spiritual soul, and it is the whole human person that is intended to become, in the body of Christ, a temple of the Spirit (CCC 364).* Our Catechism tells us that our soul is that part of us which is of greatest value. It tells us that we are human because our physical bodies are enlivened by the presence of our spiritual souls. The body and soul make up the whole human person which is a temple of the Holy Spirit. *The soul does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection (CCC 366).* St. Catherine of Siena was gifted by the Lord to see a heavenly soul in the state of grace. She said: "Oh, if you could but see the beauty of a soul in the state of grace, you would sacrifice your life a thousand times for its salvation. I asked the angel who was with me what had made that soul so beautiful, and he answered me, **"It is the image and likeness of God in that soul, and the Divine Grace which made it so beautiful."**

**To God, one soul is worth more than the whole physical universe.** *What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? (Matthew 16:26).* The highest mission on earth is to help Christ save souls. This is the mission of the Church. Those who do not understand the faith would like the Church to take on other mission such as saving the environment, which of itself is good, but is not the mission of the Church. God created the whole world by just pronouncing the word and could renew the world the same way. But to redeem even one soul, the only begotten Son of God has to be born incarnate into our world and present the sacrifice of His Precious Blood to God the Father. If God allows His only begotten Son Jesus Christ to die in order to save souls, we have a very good idea of how precious a soul is in God's eyes. God will go all the way out to save even a single soul. We too must also go all the way out to save not only our soul but that of others particularly those near and dear to us. **This is the mission we share with Christ.**

**Mortal sins result in the soul's total loss of sanctifying grace i.e. state of grace.** *If it is not redeemed by repentance and God's forgiveness, it causes exclusion from Christ's kingdom and the eternal death of hell (CCC 1861).* Mortal sin also causes the previously gained graces to be lost. *And if the just turn from justice and do evil, like all the abominations the wicked do, can they do this evil and still live? None of the justice they did shall be remembered, because they acted treacherously and committed these sins; because of this, they shall die (Ezekiel 18:24).* The Lord entrusts His Church with the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) which He instituted soon after His resurrection in order that souls may frequently wash themselves in this fount of mercy which has its source in the stream of blood and water that flowed from His pierced side when He hung on the Cross on Calvary. Our Mother Church advises her children to make a good Confession at least once a month or more frequently as is needed. **Regular Confession is necessary to help keep our soul in a state of grace.**

**Conversation with Jesus:** Precious Lord, thank You for the priceless gift of my immortal soul. In the parable of the ten virgins (cf. Matthew 25:1-13), You advise me to stay awake for I know neither the day nor the hour You would come to reclaim back my life. Give me the wisdom to keep my soul in a state of sanctifying grace always so that when called upon suddenly to appear before the throne of God at the end of my earthly life, I will be prepared like the wise virgins. When my soul is full of sanctifying grace, I can stand in Your righteousness before the throne of God. My soul is like a wedding garment that I must keep spotless throughout my pilgrimage on earth so that I can finally partake of the Heavenly Banquet that is only reserved for those who are properly attired for this great and unending blessedness. For this purpose, I consecrate my soul to my Blessed Mother Mary, who is full of grace so that she can guard my soul and all my graces and merits, and safe-keep them for me till my final moment of appearing before my Heavenly Father. Give me the grace to abhor sin so that I may never tolerate its presence in my precious soul. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus. [www.twohearts.hk](http://www.twohearts.hk)