

“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.’” Luke 12:18 NLT

[lectio] // LUKE 12:13-21

What a picture of MORE of the wrong things. For this guy in the story it was wheat, but for us it maybe furniture, frames, gadgets, trinkets and fads. We want more, and don't want to sell, give or get rid of old so we build (or borrow - STORAGE) more space. Whether it's wheat or decor, when is enough, enough? I want more but don't want to get rid of what I already have? Jesus closes the story with a stinger, “Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.” So mis-storing is bad, hoarding is bad, but Jesus identifies us focusing on the wrong relationship, the temporary emotion of STUFF. Buying stuff definitely gives an emotional boost, and showing our wickets, goods and plenty to our friends gives us another emotional boost. We probably remember that “temporary” boost when it comes time to sell, give or recycle that stuff and it makes us want to keep it (thinking we can retain the boost as well). But that stuff doesn't give back really. The purchase or gain, the cycle of see, want, take is all in our head and it's FAKE. It's fake because the item isn't anything that gives back, it's not human, it's not a symbiotic relationship. I wonder if Jesus is telling us where the real, deep emotional connections are made - in relationships, with God, with humans. That's where withdrawals AND deposits are ETERNAL. No need to sell, give or recycle relationships because they are vibrant, real, lasting and life-giving. Thank God I don't have to look over my friendships and say, “wow, I've got a lot of friends, I need to build a place to store these 'old' friends so I can get some new ones!”

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I do not think of our relationship as a transaction, like I'm gaining something from you. But, in reality, it is an investment. I spend time with you, listening to you, learning and growing from your love and wisdom. I do get so much out of this relationship and I do want to give. Give to you, my time and praise. Give to you by being faith-filled and obedient. I think it's similar with the people in my life. They are riches, they are valuable, they are meaningful. Most importantly, they are ETERNAL. It is an investment, even though I do not treat them like money or stuff and I do not give to expect a dividend or return.

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root