

OCTOBER 22ND

LETTING GO

"When we truly enjoy God's unlimited generosity, we will be grateful for what our brothers and sisters receive. Jealousy will simply have no place in our hearts."
-Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*



"Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Luke 12:14-15

FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

Greed is an expression of human desire. Perhaps we desire so much at times because at the heart of our own desires is not fulfilled. We strive to gain more things, to hoard more possessions in order to surround ourselves with plenty only to find out that these things have no heart and cannot desire nor love us in return. In this parable, Jesus depicts someone who is so spiritual that he talks with his soul and nevertheless misses the heart of his aching. It is a reminder that even today it's possible to use even spiritual devices in unworthy or self-serving ways. How can we escape the pitfalls that make this remarkable businessman who, even with the best of intentions, got lost in himself?

1. Why might the troubled ones in Jesus' parables be most often spiritual people? What does this tell us?
2. In your own words, explain what greed means, and how a person guards against it. Is greed ever good? Explain your answer.
3. Aside from financial wealth, what makes people rich? Can you share a personal experience of experiencing this?

PRACTICE

DEACCUMULATION

Give five things away that would be of value to someone else. If you have something nice that you're sure someone would value, bless them with it. Notice how you feel in the simplification of your life even through small steps.