



# THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL



**THE DIOCESE  
OF SHEFFIELD**  
Renewed | Released | Rejuvenated



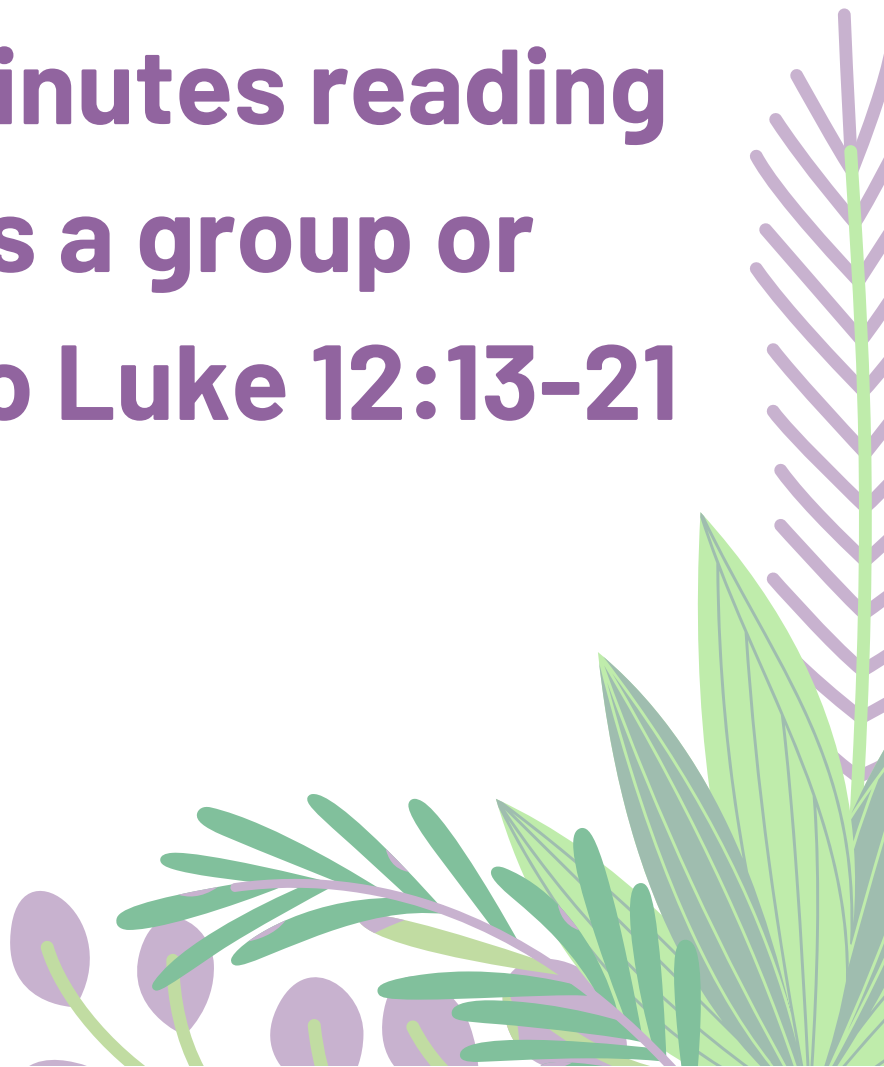
# Prayer

**Spend 5 minutes in prayer. Use this opening prayer as a prompt if you want a place to start.**

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see and open our ears to hear where you are in these scriptures. We pray your Holy Spirit living in us would reveal its wisdom to us and point us towards you and how we may be generous and live generously. Amen!

# Reading

**Before you discuss the questions on the next page as a group, spend 5 minutes reading aloud as a group or listening to Luke 12:13-21**



# LET'S Talk



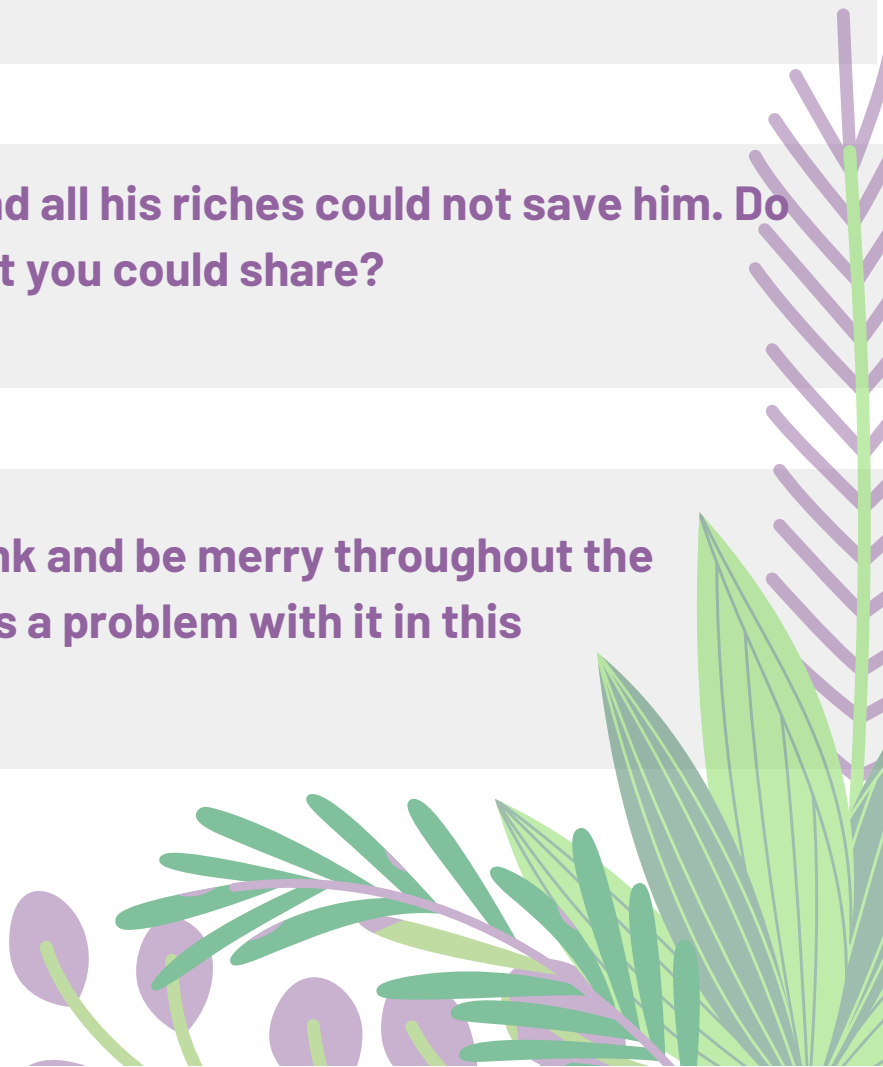
Spend 15 minutes discussing the questions below

**The title for this parable is the Rich Fool. What title would you give to this parable?**

**Before the man built bigger barns for all his riches - what would you have counselled the man to do?**

**This man's life ended quickly, and all his riches could not save him. Do you have anything stored up that you could share?**

**Jesus encourages us to eat, drink and be merry throughout the gospels. Why do you think he has a problem with it in this parable?**





## *Reflection*

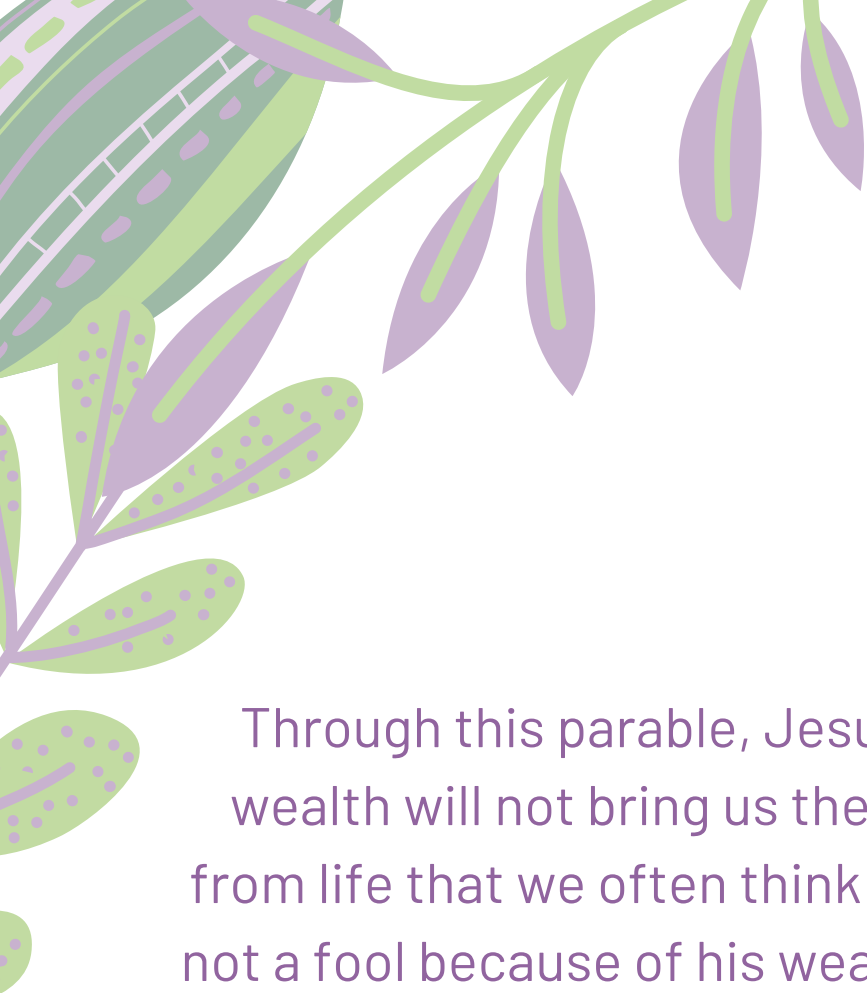
Spend 15 minutes in reflection as a group. As part of this time please read the reflection below and/or listen to the sermon from Javaid Iqbal (Archdeacon of Doncaster)

# *What does Jesus say about generosity in this parable?*

The man in Jesus' parable had fertile ground for farming, resulting in significant material and financial success. He was so successful that he had trouble managing his resources. This man designated the "rich fool", took our typical approach. To take control, plan our steps and build bigger to put more away, so we don't need to rely on God. An abundant life is something we can make for ourselves – why do we need Jesus?

But God said to him, "Fool! This night your life will be required of you": He made plans for life and business but could not control the day of his death – in one night, all the man's accomplishments and goals were up in flames.



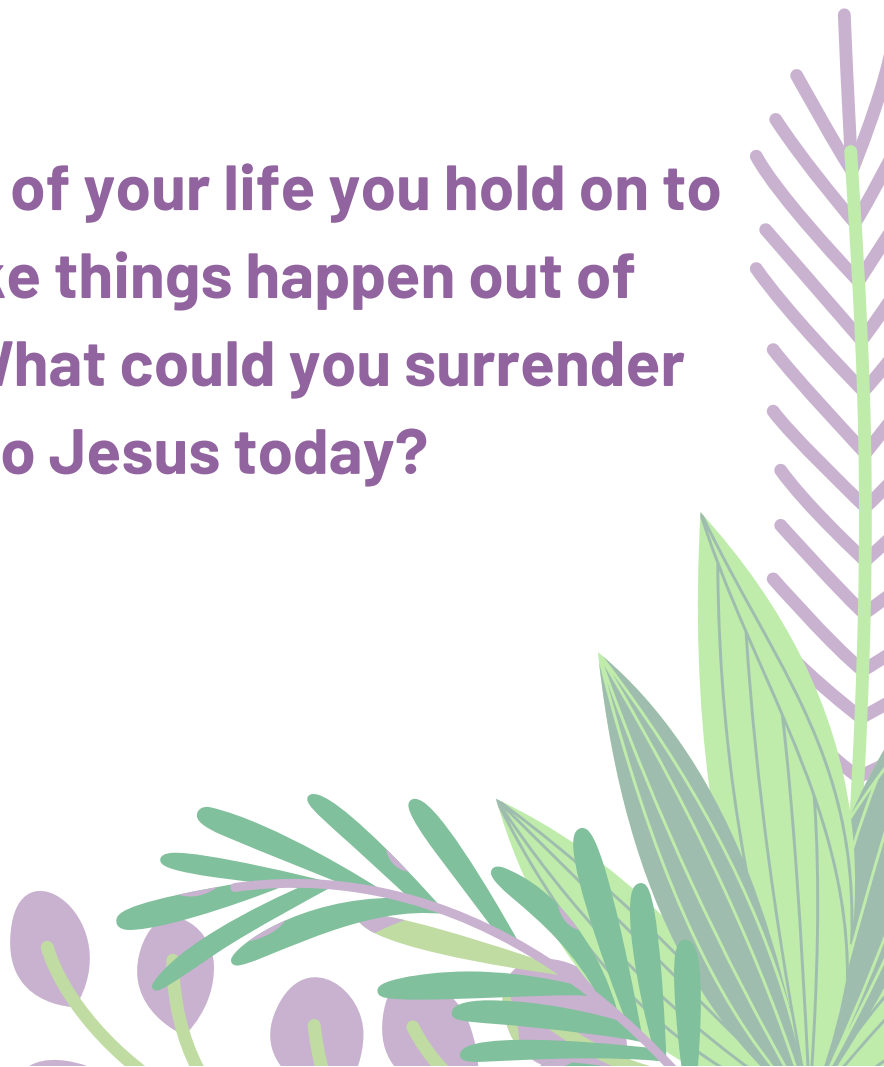


Through this parable, Jesus is showing us that wealth will not bring us the security and control from life that we often think it will. The Rich Fool is not a fool because of his wealth but because he felt he was in control and that his success was down to him and him alone. The very things he took for granted – his ground, his success, his life – was because Jesus wanted to bless him and not because of his hard work or prowess. The rich Fool possessed a short-term focus based on what he possessed on earth but Jesus wants us to cast our gaze and our resources wider and to others – to build his eternal kingdom.

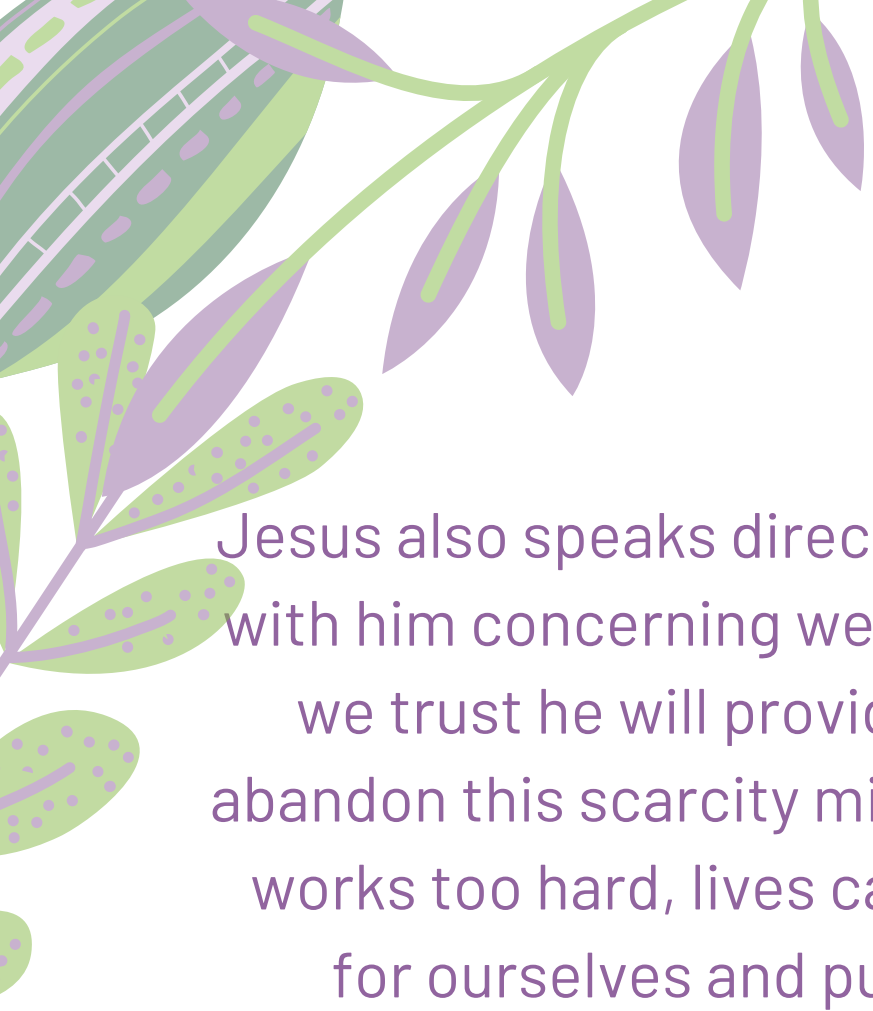
## *How might we respond?*

Through this parable, Jesus is calling us to move from a life determined by scarcity to a life of abundance. To live this abundant life is to live a life of surrender to Jesus. In giving up control and accepting our position as sons and daughters, we can learn to trust in God's sovereignty, that he is in control and not us. He is God, the Father, and we are his children.

**What are the areas of your life you hold on to control and make things happen out of Jesus's timing? What could you surrender control to Jesus today?**







Jesus also speaks directly to our relationship with him concerning wealth and finances. Do we trust he will provide? He wants us to abandon this scarcity mindset that gives less, works too hard, lives cautiously, and keeps for ourselves and put on a Christ-like abundance mindset. This mindset results in a more generous person who extravagantly gives from the heart, leans into God's rest, takes God-sized risks, and lavishes gifts on others.

**Where in your finances could you start to live abundantly? Could you make a change today to help yourself and help others?**

# Prayer

**Spend 5 minutes in prayer and gratitude. Use this closing prayer as a prompt if you want a place to start.**

Jesus, thank you for being wildly generous to us and that you are abundant in love and goodness. Lord, may we learn from this parable to trust you and surrender control in our lives, work and finances. May we take off the old scarcity mindset of our own making and put on the new abundance mindset of Christ. Amen!

