

AUGUST 3 2025 FATHER PETER TURRONE

“Take care, be on your guard against all kinds of greed. For one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.”

A man cries out from the crowd to Jesus, asking a question. He's expecting Jesus to give the answer he wants—something like, “Yes, that's right. Be generous with your brother. Share what he has.” But Jesus doesn't respond the way he expects. Instead, Jesus points to something deeper, something underlying that question.

He says, “Be on guard against all kinds of greed.” In other words, this request doesn't come from a place of true justice—it comes from a place of selfishness.

Then Jesus tells a parable. He speaks of a man who is very rich, with an abundance of possessions. But instead of being generous, the man hoards everything for himself—until he dies, without ever realizing the futility of his choices.

There is so much in today's readings to reflect on. What is the Lord telling us?

The first reading ties beautifully into this Gospel. It speaks of vanities: “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” But in biblical studies, we were taught that the word **vanity** here is better translated as **ephemeral**. All is fleeting. All is passing.

That's the first point to reflect on. Do I realize that I have only one life? That I will die, and then be judged—as it says in the Letter to the Hebrews?

This life has been given to us as a gift. God gave it to us so that we may know Him, love Him, serve Him in this life, and be with Him in the life to come. Very simple. It's not complicated.

So the question is: if I carry that truth in my mind and in my heart, does it shape how I live?

Everything in this world is ephemeral. Whether we live a few hours or 105 years, in light of eternity it is but a blink of an eye.

If we are made for eternal life with God, then this life must be oriented toward that goal. My time here should be focused on pleasing God, on getting to know Him, love Him, and serve Him, so that whenever He calls me—at whatever hour—I will be ready to enter His kingdom.

This doesn't mean that everything in this life is evil. Possessions are not inherently wrong. As St. Paul teaches, "The love of money is the root of all evil"—not money itself.

So what prevents us from being generous?

Why do some people, even those with much, struggle to share?

Often, though not always, it comes down to two things: a lack of faith and a lack of trust.

A weak faith says, "I don't really believe in an afterlife, so I need to grab everything I can here and now."

A weak trust says, "Even if there is a God, I can't rely on Him to provide for me. I have to look after myself."

We forget that no matter how hard we work, all that we have ultimately comes from God. And so we cling to our possessions, instead of entrusting ourselves to His providence.

It's okay to admit that. Even the Apostles—who witnessed Jesus perform miracles—said to Him, “Increase our faith.” And so we too can ask: Lord, increase my faith. Increase my hope. Increase my love for You.

When we are generous, when we give what is really God's and not ours, we are preparing for heaven. We are expressing gratitude and anticipating the joy of eternal life. In giving, we are already beginning to live the self-giving love of heaven here on earth.

Material possessions are not evil—but they must never replace God in the centre of our lives. If we put them at the core of our being, we will do everything to guard and protect them. The more we clutch, the more slips through our fingers. In the end, we're left with nothing.

So we pray today:

Lord, give me the wisdom to recognize how fleeting this life is.
Help me to respect the gifts You've given me and to be generous with them.

Let me live with eternity in mind,
so that I may enjoy everlasting joy and peace—
and see Your face forever and ever.