

When Enough Is Not Enough

8/3/2025

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Just 30 minutes into an evening flight, the lead flight attendant made a sheepish announcement over the speakers: “Ladies and gentlemen, I’m so sorry, but there’s been a mistake. We have 103 passengers onboard... and only 40 dinner meals.”

The cabin buzzed with confusion and concern. Then came the follow-up announcement: “If you’re willing to give up your meal so someone else can eat, you’ll receive free, unlimited drinks for the rest of the flight.”

Ninety minutes later, the flight attendant returned with a quiet update: “If anyone has changed their mind... we still have 40 dinners left because everyone chose the drinks.”

Yes, every single person had given up their meal. They all opted for the drinks—not because they were selfless, but because they were drawn to what sounded more pleasurable, more abundant, and was sweetened by the word “*unlimited*.”

And just like that, a plane full of people gave up real, nourishing food for something that felt more exciting— but ultimately didn't satisfy them.

It’s a story about us. It’s about how we live, what we pursue, and how easily we let go of what we *truly need* for something that simply *promises more*. It’s a parable that exposes the heart of our desires—and how they can never be fully satisfied.

And that’s exactly what Jesus addresses in today’s scripture: the haunting truth that for many of us, *enough is never quite enough*.

Today’s parable from Luke 12 is Jesus’ response to someone who asked him to settle a financial dispute. But instead of getting into the details of the inheritance, Jesus tells a story that cuts straight to the heart.

A rich man had a good harvest—so good that he didn't have space to store it all. His solution? Tear down his barns and build bigger ones. And once that's done, he says to himself: "Relax, eat, drink, be merry." From the outside, this might seem like good planning. Isn't it wise to save for the future? But Jesus calls the man a fool. Why? Because the man was only thinking about himself. He said *my* crops, *my* barns, *my* grain, *my* soul. There's no mention of workers who helped, neighbors who might be hungry, or God who gave the blessing. His whole world was filled with himself.

And most tragically, he assumed he had time. But that very night, his life was demanded of him. All his plans, all his wealth, and all his barns—none of it could follow him. "You fool," God says. "And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?"

This parable is not about condemning wealth. It's about how we relate to it. The rich man isn't called a fool because he was successful. He's called a fool because he thought success meant security. He thought possessions meant peace. He thought *having more* meant *being more*.

But life is more than having. Life is more than storing. Life is more than securing a future we think we control. What made him foolish is what often tempts us: the belief that "if I just had a little more, I'd finally be satisfied." But the truth is, "a little more" always becomes "not quite enough."

Let's go back to that airplane. What those passengers did wasn't generous. No one gave up a meal so others could eat. They gave up something good for something that sounded better. They gave up dinner for drinks—because the word "unlimited" promised more.

But here's the irony: they weren't hungry for food. They were hungry for more. They didn't realize what they were giving up—real nourishment—for a fleeting pleasure. Just like the rich fool, they traded what's essential for what's enticing.

That's how desire works. We think we're in control, but often our desires drive us in the wrong direction. We become spiritually short-sighted. We chase satisfaction, but forget what really fills us.

In Psalm 107, we hear a different story. A story not of hoarding, but of hungering. "O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever." The Psalmist describes people wandering, lost, hungry, and thirsty. But when they cried out to God, God delivered them. "For the Lord satisfies the thirsty, and fills the hungry with good things." (v. 9)

This isn't about storing up grain or drinks. It's about trusting that God provides what we need, when we need it. It's about realizing that satisfaction doesn't come from barns or benefits, but from belonging to the One whose love never fails.

Verse 43 concludes: "Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the Lord." If the fool in Luke 12 had listened to Psalm 107, his story might have ended differently.

Jesus ends the parable with this challenge: "So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

What does it mean to be rich toward God? It means: To trust God more than your savings account, to give generously instead of hoarding fearfully, to share time, love, and attention with others, because you believe there is *always* enough in God's kingdom, and to live with open hands, not clenched fists.

Being rich toward God is a life shaped by grace, not greed. By worship, not worry. By thanksgiving, not accumulation. It's not a financial strategy. It's a spiritual posture.

Today we share Holy Communion. And here at this table, we see what "enough" truly means. No one earns this meal. No one pays for it. You don't have to have your life together. You don't need to be rich or successful. You simply need to be hungry—for grace, for peace, for hope, for love.

Jesus didn't build bigger barns. He built a bigger table. He took the bread, broke it, and gave it. He took the cup and shared it. And he said, "Do this in remembrance of me." Communion is a holy reminder that in a world where we're told to want more, *Christ is enough*.

Here, we are fed so we can feed others. Here, we are filled so we can pour ourselves out. Here, we receive what we could never buy: unconditional love and eternal life.

I read a post on Facebook about a woman preparing for her college reunion. She was feeling anxious. She hadn't landed her dream job. She had gained weight. She didn't feel "successful." "I'll look like a failure," she said.

But her old roommate reminded her: she had a loving husband, two healthy children, a vibrant role in her church, and a heart full of compassion.

She had been comparing her life to a scoreboard that the world made up. But her real wealth wasn't in her résumé—it was in her relationships, her faith, and her character.

That's what it means to take stock—not by asking, "What do I own?" but "What am I offering?" The rich fool thought his barns made him secure. But the only true security is in the God whose love endures forever.

Friends, what are the "unlimited drinks" in your life—those things that tempt you to trade what really matters for something that just sounds good? What are the barns you're building—those plans that promise security but might keep you from generosity? And what would it look like, today, to live as someone rich toward God?

As we come to this table, I invite you to lay down whatever has convinced you that you're not enough or don't have enough. Let grace fill that empty space. And when you rise from this table, rise not with a craving for more, but with a heart full of gratitude, open to what God is doing in and through you. Because in Christ, we are not fools chasing more. We are beloved children, fed and filled by the One who is—and always will be—more than enough. Amen.