

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**By Revd John Ohen**

### **Greed and Envy**

The man in the crowd asking Jesus to settle a family dispute, Jesus knew that the man's request stemmed from greed and envy.

Our Lord teaches us that the purpose and meaning of life is to make oneself "rich towards God" (v. 21). Greed and envy make us self-centred and not God-centred, and this is the challenge. Those who pursue wealth seek security and safety. In many cases they use their riches to shield themselves from life's issues and find comfort and confidence in material things. In pursuit of wealth, they can lose sight of the real meaning of life. We will all die one day, and we cannot take our silver and gold with us to the grave. Furthermore, the pursuit of affluence and pleasure eliminates both God and neighbour from our sight. Luke 12 v. 19 reminds us "I will say to my soul, you have ample goods laid up for you for many years, take your ease, eat and drink, be merry". He died shortly after that because he had no control over his life.

Being rich in the sight of God, brings into focus the purpose of life, and helps us to live according to the truth. The real meaning of life is that we depend on God for everything. God is the source of all good things, and we are created for relationship with God. Our security is to be found in God alone. Since God gives us everything, we need to be generous to others, so that we all can live happily together, unlike those who pursue the part of avarice and envy. This will enable us to place greater trust and dependence on our Heavenly Father.

**Bible passage** Luke 12. 13 – 21.

### **Prayer.**

Lord you are the source of all that I am, and I possess. Cleanse my heart of greed and envy. Teach me to depend on you for all my needs and make me rich in your sight.