

DAMEG Y FFŴL CYFOETHOG.

Emyn: 319 *'Wele'n sefyll rhwng y myrtwydd.'*

Darlleniad: Luc 12:13-21.

Neges: Dyma ddameg sy'n edrych ar ffolineb dyn. Mae Iesu yn ein rhybuddio i beidio â gadael i eiddo materol i'n hamddifadu o fendithion ysbrydol. *"Gofalwch ymgadw rhag trachwant o bob math,"* 15.

Pam oedd y dyn yn ffôl? 1. Gwnaeth gamddefnyddio'r cyfoeth yr oedd Duw wedi rhoi iddo. Yn ei feddwl, ef oedd wedi trin y tir, hau'r had a'i gynaeafu mewn amser. Ei gyfoeth ef ydoedd. Nid felly mae'r Iesu yn ei gweld. *"Yr oedd tir rhyw wŷr cyfoethog wedi dwyn cnwd da,"* 16. Mae'n bosib bod y dyn wedi gweithio ar y tir ond Duw oedd wedi ei fendithio! Duw oedd wedi rhoi'r tyfiant, y cynhaeaf, y cyfoeth i'r ffarmwr ond nid ydoedd yn gweld hynny. Credai mai ei eiddo ef ydoedd ac felly dyma ef yn ei gamddefnyddio. Dyma a wna cyfoeth, ein trapio a'n gwneud yn bobl faterol a hunan-ganolog.

Nid yw'r Beibl yn erbyn meddu ar eiddo ond i ni ei ddefnyddio'n gywir. Ceir enghreifftiau yn y Beibl o bobl a wnaeth camddefnyddio eiddo: Achan yn llyfr Josua (7) a wnaeth gymryd mantell hardd, arian ac aur oherwydd ei

drachwant. Ananias a Saffeira a wnaeth gadw'n ôl arian i'w hunain yn hytrach na'i roi i'r eglwys fore, (Actau 5). Paul wnaeth ddatgan, *"Gwraidd pob math o ddrwg yw cariad at arian,"* 1 Timotheus 6:10. Nid yw'r drwg yn yr arian ei hunan ond yn y modd y defnyddir!

Dywed rhyw berson, *'Onid oedd Iesu wedi gorchymyn i'r dyn ifanc cyfoethog i werthu ei holl eiddo a'i roi i'r tlodion?'* Mathew 19:16. Ydoedd, oherwydd iddo garu ei eiddo yn fwy na Duw! Roedd ei feddiannau yn fwy pwysig iddo ef na dilyn Iesu Grist. Nid casglu eiddo na gwrthod eiddo sy'n cyfrif ond beth a wnawn ag ef. Rhaid cydnabod mae o Dduw ydyw a'i ddefnyddio er clod i'w enw Ef.

2. Gwnaeth adael i'w eiddo (a'r cynnydd ohono) fod yn fwy pwysig iddo na lles ei enaid a'i fywyd ysbrydol. Roedd yn ffôl oherwydd dros dro y mae eiddo'r byd ond mae enaid o dragwyddol bwys! Nid yw Iesu yn mynd i ddadlau gydag ef trwy ddweud tebyg, *"Cymhara pleserau'r presennol gyda'r golled a'r dioddef sydd i ddod!"* Na, gwyddai nad oedd gan y dyn diddordeb yn y dyfodol na'i enaid. Roedd am fyw i'r nawr – *"gorffwys, bwyta, yf, bydd lawen!"* *'Ond meddai Duw wrtho, "Y ffŵl, heno mynnir dy einioes yn ôl gennyt, a phwy gaiff y pethau a baratoaist?'* Y gwir yw, ni all yr un person fynd a dim materol gydag ef

tu hwnt i'r bedd! Medd dihareb Sbaeneg, '*Nid oes pocedi yng ngwisg y meirw.*' Rhaid gadael pob eiddo daearol ar ôl. Rhoddir yn awr i'w defnyddio neu i'w gamddefnyddio ond un dydd bydd rhaid sefyll gerbron Duw'r Barnwr a bod yn atebol am yr hyn rydym wedi gwneud gyda'r hyn a roddodd Ef. A ydym wedi eu defnyddio er clod i Dduw neu wedi ceisio eu cadw i'r hunan, ond yn y pen draw marw heb ddim?

Galwad yr Iesu arnom yw "*i fod yn gyfoethog gerbron Duw,*" 21. **Beth a olygir?** Rydym i fod yn gyfoethog ym mhethau ysbrydol, pethau sydd yn aros. **Pa bethau?**

Ffydd – '*Oni ddewisodd Duw y rhai sy'n dlawd yng ngolwg y byd i fod yn gyfoethog mewn ffydd ac yn etifeddion y deyrnas a addawodd ef i'r rhai sydd yn ei garu?*' Iago 2:5.

Gweithredoedd da – Gwnaeth Paul gyfarwyddo

Timotheus i annog y bobl dan ei ofal '*i fod yn gyfoethog mewn gweithredoedd da, ... ac felly i gael trysor iddynt eu hunain fydd yn sylfaen sicr ar gyfer y dyfodol,*'

1 Timotheus 6:18-19.

Beth sydd rhaid i ni wneud i dderbyn y fath gyfoeth? i) Rhaid rhoi Duw yn gyntaf yn hytrach na'n heiddo. Iesu wnaeth ddatgan, "*Ni allwch wasanaethu Duw a Mamon (arian),*" Mathew 6:24. Nid ydym i adael i bethau daearol, y tŷ, car,

cyfrif banc, dillad ac ati fod yn Mamon, yn dduw bach i ni!
ii) Yn ail, i fod yn gyfoethog gerbron Duw, rhaid gwacau'r hunan o bob dim a all gymryd lle'r fath gyfoeth ysbrydol. Rhaid rhoi heibio balchder, trachwant a phob drwg arall os ydym am gael ein llanw â chyfoeth Duw.

Dysgodd Iesu, "*Lle mae dy drysor, yno hefyd y bydd dy galon.*" **Ble mae ein trysor ni?**

Gweddi: O Dduw Dad, diolch dy fod, yng nghanol y dryswch a'r cyffro presennol gyda'r pandemig, yn parhau i fod yn gymorth hawdd dy gael ac yn nerth mewn cyfyngder. Tra bod ein byd wedi newid mewn modd na ellir byth ei ddisgwyl, diolch dy fod yn parhau yn ddigynnewid, yr Un y medrwn ymddiried ynddo.

Mewn cyfnod sydd wedi ein hysgwyd, gad i ni gadw ein golwg ar yr hyn sydd bwysig a gwerthfawr. Diolch am dy holl fendithion i ni, hyd yn oed yr eiddo materol sydd yn hwyluso ein bywydau. Ond cynorthwya ni i beidio â rhoi ein pwys ar bethau'r ddaear ond i geisio trysorau'r nef, megis ffydd a gweithredoedd o gariad sydd yn dwyn clod i Ti. Clyw ein gweddi, yn enw Iesu Grist, Amen.

THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL.

Hymn: 904 *'Lo amid the myrtles standing.'*

Reading: Luke 12:13-21.

Message: This parable looks at the folly of man. Jesus warns us not to let material things deny us of spiritual blessings. *"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions,"* 15.

Why was the man foolish? 1. He misused the wealth that God had given him. In his mind, he had prepared the soil, planted the seeds and gathered in the harvest. The wealth was his! Jesus did not see it likewise. *"The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop,"* 16. It is probable that the man had worked on the land but it was God who gave the growth, the harvest and the man's wealth, yet he did not see this. He believed it was his wealth and therefore he misused it. This is what wealth does, it traps and makes people material and self-centred.

The Bible is not against possessions, but it does warn against its misuse. There are such examples in the Bible: Achan in the book of Joshua (7) coveted a fine garment, silver and gold and as a result Israel lost a battle. In the

New Testament, Ananias and Sapphira, again because of greed, kept some money for themselves instead of giving it to the church, (Acts 5). Paul declares, *"The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil,"* (1 Tim. 6:10). The money of itself is not evil but the misuse of it!

A certain person once said of Jesus, *"Didn't the Lord Jesus instruct a rich young ruler to sell what he had and give to the poor?"* Matthew 19:16). Yes, he did, because the man loved his wealth more than God. His possessions were more important to him than following Jesus! Jesus does not call everybody to sell their possessions, only those who misuse it. It is God who provides all good things and we are to glorify Him with all that we have.

2. The man was foolish because he allowed his wealth to become more important to him than his own soul and his spiritual life. He could not see that his wealth was temporary while his soul had eternal value. Jesus does not argue with him, *"Compare your present pleasures with your future loss and suffering?"* Jesus knew that he did not care for the future nor his spiritual wellbeing. He wanted to live for the now – *"relax, eat, drink, be merry"* was his motto. Jesus' response was clear. *'But God said to him, "Fool! This very night your life will be demanded*

from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" 20. The truth being, no person can take any material possessions with him/her beyond the grave. There is a Spanish proverb which says, '*There are no pockets in a shroud* (garment for the dead)'. All worldly possessions must be left behind. They are given now either to be used (well) or to be misused. One day we will all have to be accountable to God for the things that He has given us. Have we used them for God's glory and for His work or have we tried to keep them for ourselves, with the end result being we die with nothing?

3. Wisdom: Jesus calls us to be '**rich toward God.**' **What does this mean?** We are called to be rich in spiritual things, things which will last. **What are spiritual treasures?** **Faith:** "*Has God not chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?"* (James 2:5). Another treasure is **good deeds**. Paul instructs people "*to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age"* (1 Tim. 6:18-19).

What must we do to inherit such treasure? i) We must determine to put God first, to serve him first and

foremost, rather than our possessions. Jesus declared, "*You cannot serve both God and money (Mammon)"* (Matt. 6:24). We are not to allow worldly things such as our home, car, holiday, money, clothing etc to become more important to us than God, to become 'little gods'!

ii) Secondly, to be 'rich toward God' we have to empty ourselves of anything that will take the place of spiritual riches. We must empty the heart of greed, pride and other wrongs, so that the riches of God can flow in. Jesus taught, "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matt. 6:21). **Where is our treasure?**

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you, that in the midst of our present turmoil with this pandemic, that you are still a willing help in our times of trouble. Though our world has changed beyond comparison in recent months, you continue to be the never changing God, and that is why we can trust in you.

At this difficult time, help us to focus on that which is truly important and of spiritual value. Thank you for all your blessings, even the material things that aid our lives. Help us though not to focus on earthly treasures but on heavenly treasures, such as faith and good deeds, so that we may bring glory to you in all that we do. Amen.