

Teaching Against Covetousness

(Based on Luke 12)

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One day thousands of people gathered to hear Jesus teach. "Beware of pretenders, people who pretend that they obey God but really they don't. Don't you be like them.



How much does it cost to buy two little birds, a few dollars? Even though they only cost a little, God hasn't forgotten them. He even knows the number of hairs on your head! Don't be afraid, you are more important to him than many little birds.



If anyone says he belongs to me in front of people, I will tell the angels of God that he belongs to me. But whoever says he doesn't know me in front of people, I'll tell the angels I don't know him either.”



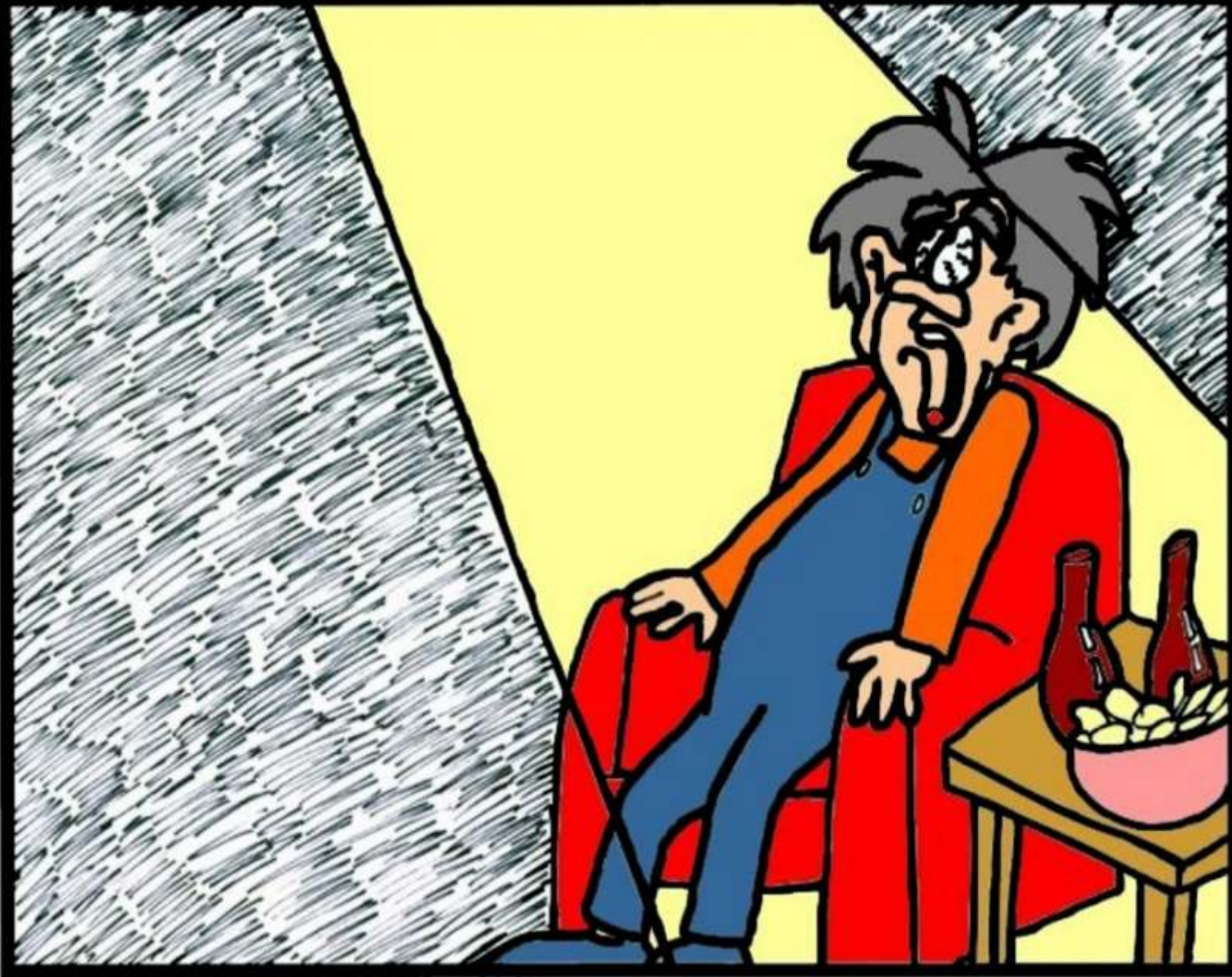
A man shouted, "Master tell my brother to share the stuff he got when our parents died." Jesus answered, "Who made me the person in charge of dividing up the stuff? Be careful that you don't become greedy. Real life is not about how much stuff you have."



Then Jesus told them a story. “The fields of a certain rich man grew lots and lots food, and the man thought, ‘What am I going to do with all this food? I don't have enough space to store it all!’”



I'll tear down my barns and build bigger barns! I'll put all my corn and food in them. Then I'll say to myself, 'Self you have lots of stuff stored up for many years. Take it easy. Eat, drink and be happy.'



But God said to him, ‘You fool! Tonight you are going to die and all that stuff you have saved up, who is going get it all?’ This is the way it is with every person who stores up lots of treasure for himself but is not rich toward God.



This is why I tell you don't worry about food and clothes. There is more to life than food and clothes. Look at the birds they don't worry, and God takes care of them. Look at the beautiful clothes God put on the flowers in the fields.



The people that don't know God, spend all their time chasing after stuff, but God already knows you need stuff. Spend your energy getting to know God and the ways of His Kingdom. Live the way He wants you to, and all the stuff will come.



Sell what you have, give gifts to the poor people, and you will have a treasure in heaven. No thief can go near it. Wherever your treasure is, that is where your heart will be.”



Lord, thank you for taking care of me. Help me to know you better and love you more every day.