Sermon: **A person’s true life is not made up of the things he owns** (Luke 12.15)

Moving house can be traumatic, especially if you also move communities/countries.

Decluttering to sell, or downsizing into a resthome – you must decide what to keep? TEXT, yet some stuff is important as memories, self-definition, value.

The man in the story valued his wealth – society does too. Wealth as in bank balance, pensions, house, etc.

But we also value friends, family, health. These are not so different in reality. TEXT.

Jesus ends story by mentioning being rich in God’s sight. What does this mean?

Many older people turn to faith – not to guarantee a spot in heaven, but because of a need to reach the core purpose of life. “What was my life all about?” TEXT. Some older folk get very depressed, and one reason, apart from loneliness, is a realisation that their lives went wrong somewhere, and now too late to rectify.

Those who seem most fulfilled are not necessarily the busiest (busyness can be an avoidance of the issue), but those whose lives have been rich in God’s sight.

Being rich in God’s sight includes:

[1] Trusting in God

The verses that follow (Luke 12.22-31) talk about this and end with **“be concerned with God’s Kingdom”.**

This is less about trusting God for a particular thing (health, heaven, companionship), more as a rock upon which you build your life. Thus it is important to get this right early on.

[2] Being transformed by God

This is the purpose of God’s Spirit. None of us is perfect (!) but those who live life with God do get better, slowly and surely. This is one of John Wesley’s foundational beliefs – holiness.

[3] Loving neighbours, especially those in need.

This is the work that our Pastoral & Outreach Committee does. Care within the fellowship and care beyond the fellowship. These are vital for the health of a parish.

For all these we need no money or human wealth, but a fresh inner attitude to life geared outwards. TEXT.

Don’t wait till your last days to become what God calls you to become – start today.