

## SET YOUR HEART ON THE GOODS OF HEAVEN

*All things, absolutely all things, are a vain illusion. Thus begins the first reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes, and these words help us find a starting point for our reflection on the word of God, which invites us, on the one hand, to avoid all forms of greed and, on the other, to seek the goods of above.*

*Let us begin by saying that Psalm 24 reminds us of an essential truth: everything is God's. The psalmist affirms that the earth and everything in it belong to the Lord; this includes both material and spiritual goods. Therefore, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are only stewards of all creation. The true owner is the Lord.*

*But unfortunately, today, there are those who exhaust themselves working and put all their talent, their knowledge, their skill into it, and without realizing it, they have to leave it all to someone who didn't work for it.*

*Jesus had already shared with his disciples: "What good does it do for a man to gain the whole world if he loses his soul?" And that is exactly what happened to the man Jesus mentions in the Gospel of Saint Luke.*

*This man removed God from his life and placed his trust in riches and money, an excessive and immoderate desire to possess, acquire, and hoard, thinking only of himself.*

*Human idols, like wealth and money, are liars and traitors. They promise apparent happiness based on pleasure, but they do nothing but enslave the human heart, leading it to selfishness and loneliness, preventing goods from reaching their true recipients.*

*The rich are not those who have (possess), but those who withhold.*

*And it is so common in our reality to see families divided over inheritances and riches; the goods to be divided end up dividing families.*

*Another danger of riches is that they make us forget our final destiny, that our time on this earth is merely temporary.*

*Pope Francis enlightens us with his teachings. He said, "I have never known a hearse followed by a moving truck. We will take nothing with us, only our good works."*

*The first certainty of life is death; being born, we begin to die. This is why the apostle Saint Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, invites us to seek the things above where Christ is; to set our hearts on the things of heaven and not on those of earth.*

*If we apply these teachings of the word of God, including the parable of this greedy man, and answer his question, "What shall I do?"*

*We could affirm:*

- 1. Manage my possessions wisely.*
- 2. How? By seeking eternal goods.*
- 3. May the goods we possess be a means of our daily sustenance, but without forgetting that they must also reach their true recipients: the poor and needy.*
- 4. Finally, it is giving and giving according to the will and desire of God.*

*May our heavenly Mother, full of grace, help us live in harmony with our Father God. Amen.*