

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life shall be demanded of you.
And these piled up things to whom shall they belong?’”

Luke 12: 20

“Looking out for Number One!” That is a personal philosophy that individuals espouse from time to time. The thinking is that no one else is really going to look out for your interests and so you must first of all look out for your self—for your own and for their needs. Then, if there is some left over it can be distributed or shared or used to help those in need. But first things first. The viewpoint represented here sounds pretty straightforward and seems to make sense in a common sense kind of way.

BUT. It begins and ends with me—and mine. I have to take care of me and mine—first. Yes that is a way of life that is espoused by many. But we are believers in Jesus Christ. His way of living is decidedly different than what is presented above. There is no trust in the first way of life. It is all self-satisfaction and self-reliance. The way of Jesus does not start with himself. It starts with his Father, Abba. It starts with the other person. It starts with a personal quality in me, the quality of neighborliness. Live that way and then watch as things unfold.

But the way of Jesus has to be believed, accepted, lived before the fullness of it is revealed. Our God will never be outdone in generosity. We are made in the image and likeness of God. Begin with the other. Live for the other. Take care of the other. Your own needs will be taken care of. How that happens will unfold. If you trust, you will see. But you will not see first. You must step out in trust first and then you will see. The more you trust, the more you see. The more you put the other first the more your own needs will be taken care of. As Pastor there is never a guarantee that there will be enough money to do all that needs doing. But if I place my trust in the Lord and take the steps to put you first and help you and serve you, then the parish needs will be taken care of. It has been going on like that for 133 years. Has it really been that long? That’s the question of the week.