

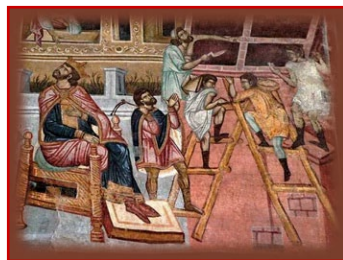


■ † Ninth Sunday of St. Luke

“Holy Riches”*

How We Become Rich Toward God

Having imparted the parable about the man who became rich and planned just to eat, drink and be merry, and for this was struck with death, not remaining alive for his supposed pleasures, the Lord concluded: “So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not **rich toward God**” (St. Luke 12:19). “So”—that is, such befalls those who commit both the one and the other. Those who become rich and forget about God think only about the pleasures of the flesh.



Let those who desire to avoid this bitter lot not lay up treasure for themselves, but be rich only toward God. Since riches come from God, devote them to God when they flow, and holy riches will come of it.

Share all surplus with the needy: this will be the same as **rendering unto God what was given by God**. He who gives to a poor person gives to God.

Seemingly exhausting his riches, such a person becomes truly rich—**rich in good deeds**. He becomes rich for the sake of God, in pleasing Him. He becomes rich in God, attracting His good will. He becomes rich from God, Who makes one who is faithful over a few things ruler over many things. He becomes rich toward God, and not toward himself, for **he does not consider himself to be the owner, but only a steward**

and accountant, whose entire concern consists in satisfying all who come to him in need. But he fears spending anything in particular on himself, considering it to be an improper use of the property entrusted to him. □

(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God.*