

Empty Hands

On his deathbed, Alexander the Great reportedly commanded that when he died, his hands should not be wrapped as was the custom of the day, but should be left exposed so that all men might see they were empty.

He wanted everyone to realize that although he had ruled the world and had gained much of the world's riches, yet left life as a common beggar, taking nothing with him. He went to meet his God with empty hands.

Strange, isn't it, that men should hoard and sell their souls for that which they must lose?

Jesus helped two brothers face up to their greed by telling a story of the futility of wealth. The climax of that tale of the foolish braggart building new barns is arresting: "God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

God does not condemn wealth. But he does condemn the misappropriation of wealth and man's misplaced values. Christ desires that we do not spend our time and energy seeking to be rich in this world's goods. He tells us to be "rich toward God." In other words, put your emphasis on things eternal.

And that's why everyday in the centers of Life Care and Century Park and in the work of Life Care at Home, associates are "laying up treasures in heaven" as they obey Christ and show their love for Him by taking care of those entrusted to them.

--Beecher Hunter