



## *Reflection from Ben Babaran*

With the Mega Million lottery at more than a billion dollars, a lot of people are plotting how to win that much money. Many more are on their knees praying that they win; some are even asking God to let them win with a promise that they'll do something big for the church. Whoever wins will be rich.

Then, this Sunday we hear the Parable of the Rich Fool. This parable makes me think that Jesus frowns on the rich. It also makes me wonder if being rich is a handicap to being a good Christian. On the contrary, Jesus is not interested in money. He is not interested in who is rich or who is poor. He is not interested in whether we are successful or a failure. Instead, his interest is us – you and me!

God who created us has also committed to be with us now and for all eternity. He is not after our status, our title, our property, or our money. He is after us – calling us to follow him, to be with him, to join him; teaching us how to love ourselves as he loves us and how to reach out to care for others.

Many of the greatest saints in the history of our Church have come from rich or well-to-do families. “Love of money is the root of all evil.” Not money itself, but the “love of money.” It is not riches that corrupts the heart, but a refusal to love one another and to care for our poor.

May the Holy Spirit give us the strength and courage to bring forgiveness, light and new life in and around Midtown KC.

*Peace,*

*Ben*