

All four of today's readings have pretty much the same message. They can be summed up in the words of Saint Paul: "Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." The material things of the world don't last so don't get attached to them. Keep God as the center of your world.

Material things are not the only things we can become attached to; we can be attached to our own plans. Jesus' parable of the rich man is an example of this. He was making plans for the future but God had something else in mind. I just said, "keep God as the center of your world"; that is part of a quote from Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati who was supposed to turn into Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati today. Pope Francis was planning on canonizing him this weekend...but God claimed Francis' life and all those plans had to be rearranged. Making plans for the future is important and prudent but we must keep in mind that we might not be here to see them to completion and we must always remember that our ultimate focus should be on preparing ourselves for heaven.

In Jesus' parable, when God said to the rich man, "You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you," most of us probably assumed the man was going to die. That was probably right but there are other ways God can claim our lives. Among my priest friends, only one of us wanted to be a priest since he was a child. The rest of us all had other plans for our lives. I was planning on making the jump from fisheries science to wildlife science. One of my friends was a real-life cowboy. Another wanted to be a movie producer and writer. The current vocation director was a climbing coach. A number of priests, including our archbishop, were engineers; I think Archbishop Sample and one of your former pastors, Msgr Betschart, were nuclear engineers. Someone once said that the best way to make God laugh is to tell him your plans. Many priests, bishops, and even some popes had other plans for our lives until God said, "Sorry son, I have something else I want you to do." It would be good for you to remember that many of us have sacrificed a lot to be here for you.

Maybe some of you are going through an intense vocational discernment process. You have your goals: get a particular job by this age, get married by this age, so many kids by this age, retire by this age. Things rarely go according to our plans and goals. When things do not go according to our plans, isn't it possible that it is because God has something else in mind for you?

Vocational calls and death are major ways God claims our lives, but there are many more ordinary ways in which God does this every day. For example: you have your day planned out and someone calls asking for help. Or you have a flat tire. Or it is just too beautiful a day to spend it inside on the computer or

cleaning house. Many of us live our lives thinking that “our story” is the only one that matters. While sometimes things just happen, other times it is God trying to get our attention because he wants to show us how he is inviting us to participate in HIS story. Because God is the source of everything that is good and he himself is the greatest possible good, there is nothing better for us than what God desires for us. While it is prudent to plan ahead, we should not get too attached to those plans and we should not let our earthly vision interfere with our view of what is above.

How might the disruption of our plans, goals, and routines be God showing us our role in His story, which is the greatest adventure story of all.