

August 3, 2025



NO MOVING TRUCKS IN HEAVEN!

By Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

“Friend, who appointed me as your judge and arbitrator?” Then Jesus said to the crowd, “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Then he told them a parable. “There was a rich man whose land produced a bountiful harvest. He asked himself, ‘What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest?’ And he said, ‘This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods, and I shall say to myself, “Now as for you, you have so many good things stored up for many years, rest, eat, drink, be merry!”’ But God said to him, ‘You fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?’ Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.”

LUKE 13:14-21

Reflection

The richness of this passage from Luke always triggers the image I created below – no moving trucks allowed in heaven! While we can laugh at the image, taking to heart the message within the image is important for each of us.

In my own life, I find it easy to accumulate “stuff” and periodically I go through my closet and cabinets and set aside those items I simply don’t use very often and then I donate them to organizations that assist those needing these types of items.

As I pondered this passage, I recalled a time when I visited one of our Sisters who had just weeks to live. She told me to open her top dresser drawer and look in. I did so and to my astonishment, she had only half the drawer filled; all the other dresser drawers were empty. I turned around and said to her, “I want to be more like you.” Sister Mary was her name, and this is how she lived her life – always giving to others.

Why do so many human beings collect and store items that can be better used by others who need them more? When I do take the time and make the effort to divest myself of “stuff” I no longer use or wear, it is also symbolic of the clutter within myself. Am I holding on to grudges or resentment? Am I dwelling on what isn’t “right” with the world rather than reflecting on how I might be more of an agent of positive change?

NO MOVING TRUCKS IN HEAVEN.



Image created by Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- What in your life needs “cleaning out” to respond more fully and joyfully to God?
- What is one thing you might do this day (or in the coming days) to de-clutter your life?

For Prayer

*O God who calls us to care for our brothers and sisters,
may we share with those in need more generously and thoughtfully.*

*May our desire to de-clutter our lives
become a practice of sharing and giving joyfully
of our time and possessions.*

Amen.

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