SERMON TAKE-HOME NOTES — August 3, 2025

Theme for the Day: "Hoarding won't save us. . . . All flourishing is mutual."

Today we encounter the First of Six "Rich Man Sequences" in the middle part of Luke's Gospel (Luke 12-19).

The First Rich Man Sequence consists of today's Gospel, the Parable of the Rich Fool, plus the next ten verses, which we didn't read but are given to you here:

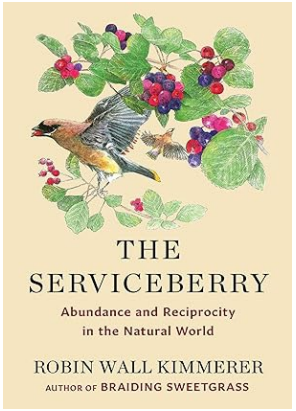
Luke 12:22-31
[22]Jesus said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your 'soul,' what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. [23]For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. [24]Pay attention to the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! [25]And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? [26]If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? [27]Pay attention to the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. [28]But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you — you of little faith! [29]And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. [30]For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. [31]Instead, strive for your Father's reign, and these things will be given to you as well.

Jesus in this passage is an indigenous man, teaching us indigenous wisdom in this passage — how to pay attention to the workings of God's creation. "Pay attention to the ravens . . . pay attention to the lilies . . . ."

Were can we look for similar wisdom today? Surprise! (Not!) From teachers of indigenous wisdom today. Turn the page to find out one of our resource books for the weeks ahead:

The Serviceberry, by Robin Wall Kimmerer, who is a botanist by vocation, and a Potawatomi by ethnicity. This book is one of the wisest extended reflections on economics that I've ever read. Similar to Jesus it basically provides economic wisdom that begins with, "Pay attention to the Serviceberry tree. . . ."

Here is the summary from the inside cover of the book:



As Indigenous scientist Robin Wall Kimmerer harvests Serviceberries alongside the birds, she considers the ethic of reciprocity that lies at the heart of the gift economy. How, she asks, can we learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine what we value most? Our economy is rooted in scarcity, competition, and the hoarding of resources, and we have surrendered our values to a system that actively harms what we love. Meanwhile, the Serviceberry's relationship with the natural world is an embodiment of interconnectedness and gratitude. The tree distributes its wealth — its abundance of sweet, juicy berries — to meet the needs of its natural community. And this distribution ensures its own survival. As Kimmerer explains, "Serviceberries show us another model, one based upon reciprocity rather than accumulation, where wealth and security come from the quality of our relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency." *The Serviceberry* is an antidote to the broken relationships and misguided goals of our times and a reminder that "Hoarding won't save us. . . . All flourishing is mutual."