
Jesus said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' Then to another the steward said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.' The steward said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.' And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings."
The person who is trustworthy in very small matters
is also trustworthy in great ones;
and the person who is dishonest in very small matters
is also dishonest in great ones.
If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth,
who will trust you with true wealth?
If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another,
who will give you what is yours.
No servant can serve two masters.
He will either hate one and love the other,
or be devoted to one and despise the other.
You cannot serve both God and mammon."

Our Scripture Reflection

Today’s Gospel text has been and will be used by many a pastor to talk about stewardship of money. Unfortunately, many will miss the deeper meaning and power underneath the words of Our Lord. There are three key points that must not be overlooked:

Trust: The owner calls the stewards in and gives them a significant portion of his money because HE TRUSTS THEM. And so it is with Our Heavenly Father. He created us as good, He loves us and trusts us to do His bidding because HE TRUSTS US. He entrusts us with far more than just money. What about our time, our talents, our health, our home, our food, our life, our faith?? All of these are gifts with which we have been entrusted and are expected to do something with for His glory.

How are we to use these gifts? Think for a minute. If you use your talents and energy with the same creativity hard work as you do your secular affairs, the sky is the limit in terms of what you could produce for the sake of God’s Kingdom.

When we take our last breath in this life, we will then be judged by the Lord as to how we used the gifts He entrusted to us.

A faithful steward is one who is humbled and grateful for having been trusted by his/her God and acts accordingly.

Food for your Journey

Lloyd Ogilvie, former chaplain of the U.S. Senate, tells the following story in his Autobiography of God:

I had a good visit with one of America’s most successful businessmen on a cross-country flight recently. He had risen from a very humble background to immense wealth. I asked him the secret of his success. His response was very interesting.

"Shrewdness!" was his one-word reply.

I was shocked by his frankness.

He went on to say that he spent every waking hour thinking, scheming, planning, developing and putting deals together. In it all he had tried to be completely honest in all his affairs!

I couldn't help but admire his single-mindedness. He knew what he wanted and left nothing to chance. He worked hard to achieve his goals. All the power of his intellect, the strength of his seemingly limitless energies, the determination of his iron will and the resources of his calculated discernment of people were employed to accomplish his goal.

Later, Ogilvie mused what could happen if the people of God put the same sort of "shrewdness" to work for the kingdom of God. --Lloyd John Ogilvie, Autobiography
A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious Father, You love me and trust me to be Your servant in this life. You give me a portion of time and many talents and entrust me to do Your good work. Help me to be faithful to You and the work You have assigned to me. And when my life comes to an end, may I have an abundant harvest to present to You. Amen