

25th Sunday Year C



THE GOSPEL [Luke 16:1-13](#) or [10-13](#)

The children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of the light.

Dear God,
give us big hearts.
Make us sly like foxes.
Sharp as two-edged swords.
Shrewd as lawyers.

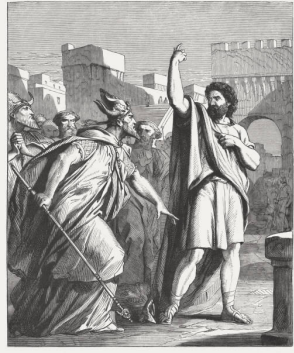
Whatever it takes!

Let us
grow in
holy cunning:

stewards to help you bring
every single person
home to your
heavenly
mansion.

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.





THE FIRST READING Amos 8: 4-7

*Hear this, you who trample upon the needy
and destroy the poor of the land!*

What would Amos say today?

That our scales are rigged for cheating and
that corporate greed is the norm?
That their workers are trampled on,

That many food producers

In the third world
can't feed their
own
children?

Please bring us your justice.

Teach us to
love our neighbour
as ourselves.

THE SECOND READING 1 Timothy 2: 1-8

*This is good and pleasing to God our savior,
who wills everyone to be saved.*

Jesus—
earth's ransom—
have you chosen us
to bring your blessed promise
to all the world?

Help us,
today,
yesterday
and tomorrow,

to
pray everywhere,
every minute,
and to love
well our
each and
every neighbor.

Today's Readings:

This week's readings highlight that God is Lord of the poor, the needy and the oppressed – as well as being the God of those in positions of power and authority. The readings also testify to these two sides of witnessing to our faith.

The prophet Amos gives a powerful message, fiercely condemning social injustice – and especially those who trample on and exploit the needy and impoverished. **(First Reading)** Jesus, too, is unambiguous when it comes to the right use of money. Tainted as it is, money has a place in the life of believers. However, it should be used ethically for the greater good of all. **(Gospel)**

St Paul urges us to lives of prayer. We are to pray for all, including those in positions of political authority, for they have responsibility to care for the vulnerable in society and preserve the peace. God longs for a loving and truthful relationship with all people. **(Second Reading)**

Today's **Psalm**, a hymn of praise, glorifies God – in particular because of the care and compassion he shows for the poor and lowly.

This week, we pray for those who hold political and institutional power in our lands, that they may have the courage and integrity to use their power and influence to develop the kingdom of God here on earth.

We also continue to pray for the peace of the world, for all who suffer, especially our many sisters and brothers living in abject poverty and powerlessness. (*From St. Beuno's Outreach to the Diocese of Wrexham*).



Reflection: Is this really the Gospel? Is Jesus actually praising a man for being doubly dishonest?

The story can leave us perplexed. Jesus tells of a man who cheated his employer and then, when caught, before being fired, cheated his employer a second time by writing off some of the debts of those who owed the employer money. Moreover, there is an added craftiness to the steward's actions. Notice that he, himself, doesn't do the actual deed of cooking the books. He has the master's debtors do the actual writing so that they are now implicated in the dishonesty. Accordingly, they are now complicit with him in his crime and will owe him favors after he loses his job. And, Jesus praises this! What are we to make of it?

The renowned intellectual Bernard Lonergan once shared that he liked this text because "it's one place in scripture where human intelligence and ingenuity are praised." Certainly, that's true, but why would Jesus use an example of dishonesty to do this?

Because what Jesus is praising here is not dishonesty but ingenuity—ingenuity as the antithesis of complaint, whining, and despair. Jesus points out that those who are outside our religious circles tend to be more ingenious in times of trouble than we committed believers, who too often give ourselves over to grumbling and inaction. I'm with Lonergan in his takeaway from this story: ingenuity is the opposite of complaint and despair.

Fr. Ronald Rolheiser OMI

Here's a text if you only have a minute ...

Father, guide us, as you guide creation according to your law of love.

Alternative Old Opening Prayer

God wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth.

'Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son!'

Gospel Acclamation

