

25th Sunday of the Year

Today's readings remind us that we are God's stewards, and that God expects faithful and prudent stewardship from us. They challenge us to use our God-given talents and blessings, like wealth, wisely to attain Heavenly bliss.

In the first reading, Amos, the prophet of social justice, condemns the crooked business practices of the 8th century BC Jewish merchants of Judea and reminds the Israelites and us to be faithful to our Covenant with Yahweh, God of Justice. We need to practice justice and mercy to all, as God's faithful stewards. Amos warns us also against setting making money by any means as the goal of our life.

Today's Responsorial Psalm (Ps 113) reminds us that the all seeing God protects and cares for the poor. In the second reading, St. Paul instructs the first century Judeo-Christians to become true stewards of the Gospel of Jesus, the only mediator, by preaching the "Good News" to the pagans and by including them in intercessory prayers, too.

Today's Gospel story tells us about the crooked, but resourceful, manager and challenges us to use our blessings time, talents, health and wealth wisely and justly so that they will serve us for our good in eternity. We use our earthly wealth wisely when we spend it for our own needs in moderation and when we love and help the needy around us, because these are the purposes for which God has entrusted His blessings to us.

We need to be faithful in the little things of life: Let us remember Saint John Chrysostom's warning, "Faithfulness in little things is a big thing," and the reminder of St. Theresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa, canonized September 4, 2016

by Pope Francis), “Do little things with great love.” So, let us not ignore doing little things, like acknowledging a favor with a sincere “thank you,” congratulating others for their success, sharing in their sorrows and/or offering them help and support in their needs.

We need to use our spiritual resources wisely: The manager in Jesus’ story used all his resources to secure his future. We must be no less resourceful. We have at our disposal the Holy Mass and the Seven Sacraments as sources of Divine grace, the Holy Bible as the word of God for daily meditation and practice, and the teaching authority of the Spirit-guided Church to direct us in our Christian life. We need to use these resources in such a way that it will be said of us, “*And the master commended them because they acted so prudently.*”

We need to be prepared to give an account of our stewardship: We insure our houses against fire, storms, flood, and thieves, just as we insure our lives, buying life insurance, health insurance, and car insurance. In the same way, let us “insure” ourselves (with God, not Prudential!) for the one thing that most certainly will happen, namely, our meeting God to give Him an account of our lives. What really matters, at that time of our *Private Judgment* by God at the moment of our death is how wisely we have used our blessings during our life, lovingly and generously sharing them with others in need.