

2025 9 21 - homily Sunday wk 25 - Lk 16 1-13 wasteful steward

Today we have a very busy gospel passage. There is a lot going on.

We have an employee who is summoned for an accounting of his life for wasting his Masters property.

Then the employee gets shrewd and uses his position to set himself up for after he is fired.

Jesus then tells us that people of the world are more prudent with worldly wealth than people of the light

Then Jesus talks about the importance of using for worldly wealth for eternal uses.

Then Jesus ends with the famous saying you cannot serve two masters. You cannot serve both God and mammon, or in other words, God and worldly wealth.

(Pause)

One initial clarification, the employee is not being fired for embezzling money, but just squandering the Masters property.

SLIDE

Squander = wasteful

I don't use the word squander very often, so I looked it up. Squander means wasteful in a reckless or foolish manner. The Example given was of people who start companies who squander their profits on expensive cars.

What the employee did after he was told he would be fired has raised questions, some believe that the man only subtracted the commission that he would've received..

others believe that he forgave the interest master may have been illegally

charging.

In any case, the employee was being fired, for being wasteful.

So, how does all the apply to us?

(Pause)

How are we wasteful or reckless or foolish with worldly wealth?

A place where there is a great waste is our consumer mentality. It is estimated that almost 40% of all the food produced in the United States is unsold or uneaten.

SLIDE

40% of food is thrown out

That's half \$1 trillion, that's 145 billion meals. This is on an earth where almost 1 billion people are food insecure not knowing where their next meal will come from.

Another place where there is waste is not caring for our common home.

SLIDE

Laudato Si
Caring for our common home

We need to read the call of Pope Francis and his encyclical Laudatory Si. It says in the book of the prophet Isaiah chapter 45, God did not create the world to be a waste.

(Pause)

“The people in today’s readings are not condemned because of their economic privilege, but because they used it only to their own advantage. As Christians, we are not merely children of the world, but also children of the light.” Preaching the new lectionary (Dianne Bergant p 367)

We are creatures of this world. We are made of it, and we are totally dependent upon it for our very existence. We require its air, its water, its food, its heat, We need it for covering and for shelter; we need it to stimulate our minds and our spirits. Therefore, our use of phenomenal resources cannot in itself be immoral. What is questionable is the character of our use. How much do we really need? How much do we have right to use? What constitutes exploitation? When are we hoarding? (Diane Bergant P.365-6)

How are we using worldly wealth to set us up well for our future by laying up heavenly treasure, which is the only treasure we take with us when we pass from this life to the next.

SLIDE

When we die,

we only take with us what we give away.

Cardinal George former archbishop Of Chicago said, when we die, we only take with us what we give away.

One way to lay up for ourselves heavenly treasure is how we will be judged at the end of our life. Matthew chapter 25 also known as the “judgment of nations”, gives us the answers Jesus says “We will all be judged on whether we fed the hungry, clothed the naked welcomed the stranger cared for the sick visited those in prison”.

“We are not called to disown the world. It is impossible for us to do that because of our total dependence on it. But we are called to live in it gently using what we need and sharing what we can.” (Dianne Bergant p 367)

God wants us to put our trust in Him and not in things. As someone has said, we are called to “live simply so others can simply live.”

SLIDE

Live simply

So others can simply live

For our homework this week, let us try to do two things. First Let us consider how we are wasteful or reckless with our material possessions and second how are we using worldly wealth to lay up treasure for ourselves in heaven?

Slide:

Homework:

Less waste

Share more

This week, let us look at how we can be more careful with the world's resources and only use or take what we need and use and share what we can.