

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113

The Lord lifts up the poor from the ashes. (v7)

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom & our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 16:1-13

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, & charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him & said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ ³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, & I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, & make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill & make it eighty.’ ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; & whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one & love the other, or be devoted to the one & despise the other. You cannot serve God & wealth.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How do vv19-31 help explain v9 (& v4)? “Dishonest” means worldly, earthly, not righteous, etc.
2. How does v12 anticipate what Jesus says in 20:19-26? See Psalm 24:1, 50:10-11, 89:11; Romans 13:1-10; 1 Corinthians 10:31

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Many people claim their lack of faithfulness in spiritual “small things” (prayer, Bible reading, worship) is irrelevant to their assertion of readiness for greater things (e.g. medical/personal/family crisis; spiritual leadership; moral authority). How have you fallen into this trap? What specific thing showed you your errors & returned you to the basics?
4. How shrewd do children of the light (v8) need to be? See Matthew 5:14-16, 33-48, 10:16-24; John 12:34-36; Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 10:23-33; Ephesians 5:6-13; Philippians 2:12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-11

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. The dishonest manager is not Robin Hood. He’s looking out for himself. How would listening to Luke 12:22-34 prevented his circumstances? How do these two together stand as a warning for our debt-laden society? See Proverbs 6:5, 10:22; Romans 13:8
6. How does v13 show continuity with the themes of Luke ch9-16, especially 9:23-27, 51, 61-62, 14:25-33? How have others helped you keep the main thing the main thing (following Jesus always)? How can you encourage others to do the same? In 50 words or less compose a convincing (& truthful!) description of how discipleship instead of middle-class lifestyle choices has set your life priorities. Yes, this is a tough question; it will take you several tries. If you can’t, what needs to change? Begin praying for those changes & the necessary courage & grace to persevere. See 1 Peter 3:13-17

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: Celebrating God's Gifts

09.18.22
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Resources for God's Kingdom

Jesus desires our resourcefulness, even using worldly wealth against itself

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: I tell you, make friends for yourselves
by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone,
they may welcome you into the eternal homes. (v9)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; strive side by
side for the faith of the gospel.. (*Philippians. 1:27*)

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