

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025

St. Edward's Parish

Friends, we have an unusual parable today. It seems the Lord holds up a dishonest business

manager as a model for the spiritual life. Here a business manager has been charged with squandering the owner's property and it about to lose his job. The manager sees the seriousness of his situation and quickly comes up with a plan: he decides to use whatever is at his disposal to prepare for the future. He calls those who owe his boss, and he reduces their debts so that they will be generous to him when he is fired. The owner was impressed with how shrewd the manager was. Jesus holds up this manager as a model for everyone, not on account of his dishonesty, but because he acted wisely with what was available to him to prepare for the future. By this Jesus is instructing that we should use everything at our disposal to prepare for eternal life.

Our Lord knows how ingenious we can be when something important is at stake. If you were told you would lose your job, would you not do whatever necessary to prepare for the future? If the doctor warned you were going to have a heart attack, would you not do everything you could to change your diet improve your health? When something important is at stake, we have no trouble quickly acting in our best interests to prepare for the future. We spend years of effort getting degrees, building a career, obtaining possessions etc...Imagine if we had that same concern in preparing for eternal life. However, when it comes to the good of our soul and our eternal salvation, we tended to give little serious thought or effort. This is what our Lord grieves over when he says, "the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light." By this He means that people are more clever in reaching their material goals than we Christians are in our spiritual goals.

Our Lord tells us: "make friends for yourself by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes." By "dishonest wealth" or more literally "mammon of iniquity" it seems Jesus simply means our wealth in this world. Wealth that is not the

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true riches of heaven and wealth that can often lead us to act dishonestly. With this in mind, what are some ways we can use our resources wisely to prepare for eternal life?

First of all, we can use our time wisely to learn our Catholic faith; if we have not been attending Mass regularly now is the time to begin; we can return to keeping the Lord's Day holy, and if we have been putting off confession now is a good time to return.

Like the dishonest manager we can also use what we have for the benefit others. Even if we do not have a lot of money to share, we can visit someone who is sick, someone who is lonely, perhaps in a long-term care home. As well, many people are spiritually poor and far from God. We could invest in bringing others back to the faith; invite someone to Church; invite someone back to the sacrament of Confession; invite someone to a parish faith study program. If they receive the gift of faith, they will be eternally grateful.

Married couples can be generous in having children. There is no greater gift we can give than the gift of life. It is a gift to the one who is born, a gift to God, and a gift to the world. Despite the sacrifices, each life will have eternal significance.

We can also do good those who have died. As Catholics we believe that most people who die in God's grace will need purification. We call this Purgatory. We can assist the dead with our prayers for them, especially offering Masses for the dead, our Rosary etc... The dead will be eternally grateful for the spiritual help we give them.

Taking a lesson from the dishonest manager, let us look upon everything that we have and use it wisely to prepare for eternity. Our money, our possessions, our work, our free time, our faith etc.... All of these good things, if we are wise, can be used to serve God and our neighbour, and lead us to eternal life.