

September 22, 2019

Luke's Gospel today is one of the hardest ones in all the New Testament to understand. How are we to interpret this parable of Jesus that we are to make friends with dishonest wealth?

We have an example of dishonest wealth in Prophet Amos today who preached against the wealthy who cheated the poor in their business dealings. They don't care about the religious observance or using false scales or quality of the wheat they sold, anything to make a buck. Their wealth was dishonest; it rightly belonged to the poor.

In the big picture of the scriptures, everything really belongs to God. Nothing really belongs to us. We did nothing to earn the air that we breathe let alone anything else that what we have, so in that sense, everything we have is "dishonest wealth" and especially if we fail to be generous as God is generous to us. Russell Wilson makes \$35 million per season. In the football world, he is worth every penny and deserves his fair share of the wealth that the Seahawks make because of him. We know that he is a good guy and gives a share of his money away, whereas from the point of view of the scriptures, none of it really belongs to him. Who gave him his incredible athletic talent? Where would he be if he didn't have that talent? All belongs to God. Jesus makes very clear you cannot serve both God and mammon, or the goods of this world.

For some people time is even more important than money. Some people are much more willing to give their money than their time, which is understandable. Most of us can make more money, but none of us can make more time. Time is also "mammon" therefore, we cannot serve both God and time. All time belongs to God.

I wrote in the bulletin a couple weeks ago two quotes. One was from Pope St. John Paul II, "Do not be afraid to give your time to Christ." The other was from Matthew Kelly, "If you don't have enough time to pray and read the scriptures than you are busier than God ever intended you to be."

When I talk to people who have gone on the CRHP retreat, I often hear people repeat same things, "I kept putting it off because I thought that I didn't have enough time to go. Now that I have gone, I wish that I would have done it much earlier." "It was the best experience of my life." "I used to know just the faces of people in the parish and now I know who they are. They are my friends."

At this time, I would like us to view a video to hear the testimony of some our parishioners about CRHP.

<https://stlouis.org/crhp>

After the video:

The next CRHP weekend is October 19 and 20. If you have not gone, now is the time. People will be available to answer your questions and to help you sign up. Do not be afraid to give your time to the Lord. We cannot outdo him in generosity.