

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

September 22, 2013
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary: 135
Gospel Lk 16:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' Then to another the steward said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.' The steward said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.' And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."

Spiritual Reflection

I have been told that when a soldier enters into basic training they are sometimes issued a flashlight and they are told to treat that flashlight as if it were their gun. The idea being if they cannot keep track of a flashlight how can they keep track of a gun and flashlights are normally less lethal when mishandled. How can we show Christ that we are ready for greater gifts of grace when we do not always live moral lives with the gifts that we have?

Spiritual Question

1. What gifts has God given you?
2. How good of a steward are you of material things?
3. How good of a steward are you of immaterial things?
4. Would people describe you as trustworthy or someone who tells big lies, little white lies, or half truths?
5. Who are what monopolizes most of your time?



2013

