

NOVEMBER 5, 2021
Friday of the 31st Week in OT
Luke 16: 1-8

“PRUDENT FORESIGHT AND GOOD STEWARDSHIP”

Jesus always taught us useful and straightforward situations with subsequent lessons. He used day to day life experiences to learn from them. In our gospel today, Jesus gave us the Parable of the Dishonest Manager. What we can get from this parable? When the rich man, an owner of the land, knew that his manager was squandering his properties, he ordered him to account his management and dismissed him of his job. After careful thought that losing his job will be hard for him, for he cannot do menial works or even beg and leave him penniless, the manager decided to make a bold resolution to his situation. He called his master's debtors, struck a deal and reduced all their debts. He gave up his generous commission and won for him great favor with the debtors. Because the manager was acting on behalf of the landowner, the deal made his master look kind, generous and forgiving towards people who owned him. The landowner would be praised as hero and savior by everyone. Since the owner cannot do anything to his manager's cancellation of debts without losing face and make everyone angry and dislike him, he commended the manager for his very smart move and make him appear as merciful and compassionate landowner.

So, what's the point of Jesus here? Did He commend the manager because of his dishonesty and corrupt behavior? Jesus is no way tolerating or disregarding the manager's attitude, He praised his acting out of a critical situation with clear-sighted resolution, and prudent foresight to avoid serious loss or disaster.

The lesson of the gospel is very clear. If we can do that in our earthly job and career, what about our eternal future? If we want to secure our life with God, we need to take necessary and required plans and steps. Those plans and instructions are given to us in the Words of God and evidently set out in the Gospel such as love, compassion,

mercy, truth and justice given to those people around us, within our family, community, friends and neighbors. Our aim is to follow and obey God's will over our own and build the kingdom here on earth. My brothers and sisters, if we do that everyday, on daily basis, then we have nothing to fear, bother or worry about and our future is guaranteed and assured in the hands of God. We need to follow the teaching of Jesus which is summed up in the Gospel of Love. If we have spiritual foresight to gather treasures of heaven not of the world, be generous, just and merciful, and share our riches to our brothers and sisters, the Kingdom of God will be our future and destination.