

NOVEMBER 6, 2020  
Friday of the 31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in OT  
Luke 16: 1-8

“TREASURE IN HEAVEN.”

How do we use our position and possession in dealing with God and others? This is a question that affects our condition and situation in the future. In our first reading the Letter to the Philippians, St. Paul reminded the followers of Jesus that earth is not our destiny, our homeland is in heaven. We must focus not on the things of this world but on God that lead us to all truth and love. Yes, we live and work out our salvation here on earth, but we do not belong here. According to St. Paul, “Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.”<sup>1</sup>

While in our gospel, Jesus is teaching us how to use cleverly things we have here on earth as indicated in the parable the “master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly.”<sup>2</sup> What He meant by this? “The dishonest steward is commended not for mishandling his master's wealth, but for his shrewd provision in averting personal disaster and in securing his future livelihood. The original meaning of shrewdness is foresight. A shrewd person grasps a critical situation with resolution, foresight, and the determination to avoid serious loss or disaster. Jesus is concerned here with something more critical than a financial or economic crisis. His concern is that we avert spiritual crisis and personal moral disaster through the exercise of faith and foresight. If Christians would only expend as much foresight and energy to spiritual matters, which have eternal consequences, as they do to earthly matters which have temporal consequences, then they would be truly better off, both in this life and in the age to come.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Philippians 3: 20 NRSV Catholic Bible Press, USA

<sup>2</sup> Luke 16: 8 NRSV Catholic Bible Press, USA

<sup>3</sup> [www.dailyscripture.net](http://www.dailyscripture.net)

My brothers and sisters, God loves a cheerful giver, persons who are generous, share his/her gifts with others. He expects us to use wisely, honestly, and responsibly things that we have and put them at the service of God and others. Possessions are true wealth not when we keep it to ourselves but when we use it properly, share and give it away. According to St. Ambrose: “The bosoms of the poor, the houses of widows, the mouths of children are the barns which last forever.”<sup>4</sup>

My brothers and sisters, one way to be rich in heaven by doing good on earth is the invitation of the Diocese of Calgary to participate in I Am Blessed Campaign this month of November wherein we are encourage to “Be that light for others during these difficult times. Give: Donate to help others; Act: Do good deeds for others; and Pray: Remember others in your prayers.” In this time of pandemic, even if we are also struggling, what are your plans to help and be at the service of God and others?

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<sup>4</sup> ibid