

NOVEMBER 6, 2021
Saturday of the 31st Week in OT
Luke 16: 9-15

“THE BARNS WHICH LAST FOREVER.”

After Jesus taught us to have a prudent foresight and good stewardship from yesterday's gospel, Jesus is teaching us today how to make use of our possessions and wealth to achieve heaven. Jesus emphasized to make friends to the poor, deprived, needy or underprivileged because they will be on our side on the judgement of God as we endowed our wealth in them. “The rabbis had a saying, ‘The rich help the poor in this world, but the poor help the rich in the world to come.’ St. Ambrose, a 4th century bishop commenting on the parable of the rich fool who tore down his barns to build bigger ones to store his goods said: The bosoms of the poor, the houses of widows, the mouths of children are the barns which last forever. The true treasure which lasts is the treasure stored up for us in heaven. God richly rewards those who give generously from the heart to help those in need.”¹ Also, a reminder from Jesus who once said “As often as you did it to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me.”²

My brothers and sisters, material wealth that come into our life are not only meant for us, it does not belong to us absolutely. We are all stewards of goods of the earth, it also belongs to all. The gospel is warning us that all our possessions and material wealth are entrusted to use not for our own good only but for the welfare of others. And we will be judged how we make use of it everyday. Generosity leads us to God and enriches our treasures in heaven. “What is the enemy of generosity? It's greed, the excessive desire for personal gain and security. However, we do not need to be afraid for true generosity does not impoverish the giver, but enriches that person a hundredfold! Generosity expands the soul - but greed contracts it. God is generous and superabundant in lavishing his gifts upon us. We can never outmatch God in generosity. He has given us the best of

¹ www.dailyscripture.net

² Matthew 25: 40 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

gifts in sending us his only-begotten Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who offered up his life for us on the cross. The Father also offers us the gift of the Holy Spirit who fills us with the fruit of peace, joy, patience, kindness, love, and self-control (Galatians 5:22) - and many other blessings as well. Everything we have is an outright gift of God.”³ Also, we cannot serve both God and wealth. We cannot give ourselves totally to God but slaves of material wealth. Look at the rich young man (Matthew 19: 16-22) who wanted to follow Jesus but left sad because he was slave of his many possessions. He cannot give up his wealth. If we want to follow Jesus we must become free of the temptation of material things. Money and materials things are not bad, want makes us bad is on how we use it or greedy and selfish. These must be use for God’s love and service of our brothers and sisters especially those in need.

My brothers and sisters, everything that we have, money or possessions or material wealth are cherished means and gifts from our Lord, make good use of it. Be generous, share your blessings and gather treasures in heaven. So, let us ask the Lord in this Eucharist that our hearts will be filled with generosity and kindness to share what we have with others.

³ www.dailyscripture.net