

September 22, 2019

From Fr. Jim . . .



About the Gospel: What's the point? Did you understand that? What does this mean? How does this apply? These are common questions and responses after hearing what Jesus was saying to his disciples. "And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting imprudently." Was Jesus encouraging dishonest behavior? If so, how could he do this? It is against his behavior and nature. On the surface it seems like Jesus is encouraging dishonesty, but it is a misinterpretation of Scripture to do so.

A steward functioned as an agent of the master with the power to hire, fire, enter into contracts, etc. The steward managed the finances and made some payment for himself by charging interest. The loan note showed the amount to be paid back and not the amount borrowed. The money to be paid back included the interest which was the steward's own money. So, when the steward writes the note, effectively he is giving up his own share of the money owed, twenty-five percent in one case and fifty percent in the other. The rich man gets his amount in full. So, the parable is not about encouraging dishonesty as much as it is about the right use of money and resources.

Without a doubt, the steward had been dishonest, and therefore he was being fired from his job. But his writing down of the debt was a clever way of using his own resources (the money owed to him) to gain favor with others and to assure that his master was paid in full. It was the steward's own money, so he couldn't be condemned for stealing. Instead, the master and the debtors admire the steward for the good that he has done.

We are to be creative with our own resources and use wealth for a greater good. How are we using are time talent and treasure to give God glory and praise and to build the kingdom of God? How can we be clever with our time, talent and treasure to love God and neighbor with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength? How can our wealth and riches be used to serve God and the good of all? Storing up treasure in heaven is the only treasure that lasts and the only treasure that satisfies.

Thank you, Our Lady of Visitation: On September 13, 2019, we were invited to Our Lady of Visitation's parish picnic. The weather was great, and the event was most enjoyable. I believe we might have had the biggest representation from Saint Leo ever. Our Lady of Visitation, in addition to hosting the event at Stricker's Grove, provided a bus from First Student for us. We filled it with fifty people – adults, children, teens, parents and families, elderly and the young. Also, many others came by car and the diversity of St. Leo was well represented. Some of our young, working adults and college students came back for the event and it was a reunion of sorts for all our parishioners. We give thanks to God for our partnership with Our Lady of Visitation and for their generous welcome into their parish family.