

The Living Word

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

18 September 2022

First Reading Am 8:4-7

The Lord God spoke against those who buy the poor for money.

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country,

you who say, "When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat?"

Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel,

by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.'

The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 112:1-2. 4-8. R. see vv.1. 7

(R.) Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.
or

(R.) Alleluia!

1. Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!
May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and for evermore! (R.)
2. High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God, who has risen on high to his throne yet stoops from the heights to look down, to look down upon heaven and earth? (R.)
3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the dunghheap he raises the poor to set him in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Tm 2:1-8

Let prayers be offered to God for everyone; he wants all people to be saved.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and mankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to life their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ was rich but he became poor, to make you rich out of his poverty.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 16:1-13

or (shorter form Lk 16:10-13)

You cannot be slaves both of God and of money.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Jesus, surprisingly, found something appealing about this steward who was in the rapacious lending business. What was it? Faced with the news that he was about to lose his position, his catastrophic reversal of fortune, he cut a deal with his debtors to help secure his future. Jesus gave him full marks for being astute and shrewd.

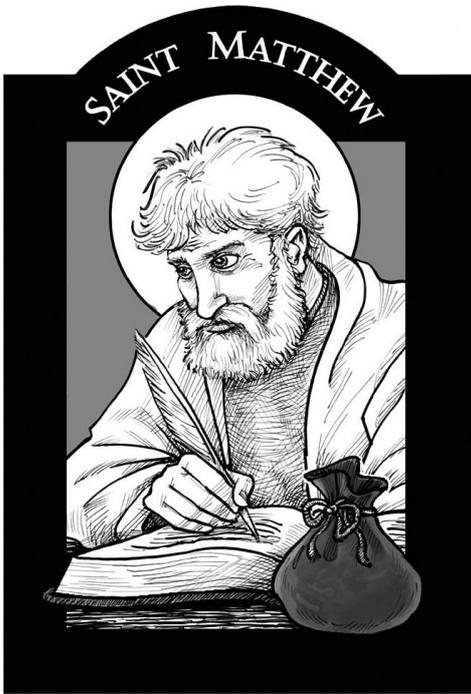
Jesus laments the fact that many of his followers, 'children of the light,' are not as smart in the face of the Great Reversal – which He is inaugurating in which 'the hungry will be filled with good things and the rich sent empty away' (Mary's *Magnificat*).

We should be using our money ('mammon') to alleviate the myriad hungers of the world, not to buy our way into Heaven, but so that we become the sort of person who will be able to enjoy the heavenly companionship of those who hungered.

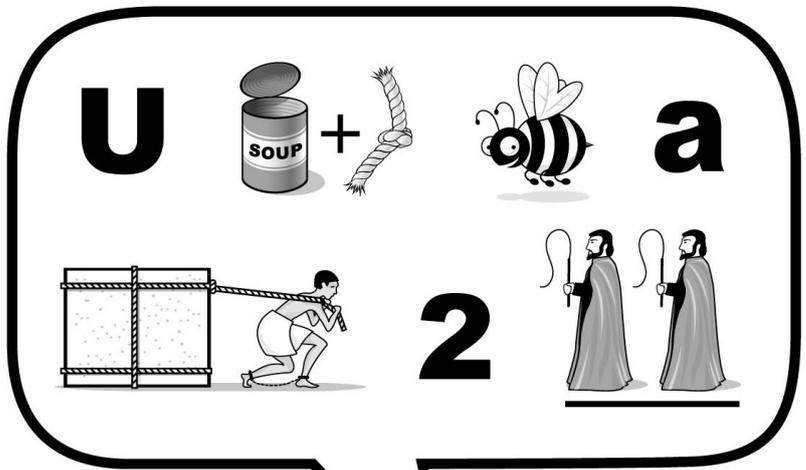
We could take a moment to pause and take stock of the use of our resources which are *passing*, so that we may be received into the *eternal* habitation.

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St Matthew was originally a tax collector for the Roman Government at Capernaum, before Jesus called him to become an apostle. Jesus' contemporaries were surprised to see him associating with someone like Matthew, but Jesus explained that he had come "not to call the just, but the sinners". In the Gospels of Mark and Luke, Matthew is called Levi, and so it is thought that he may have had both names. The first Gospel was believed to have been written by Matthew. His account of Christ's life was written for his fellow Jews; to convince them that their anticipated Messiah had indeed come in the person of Jesus.



Try to decipher this teaching that Jesus gave to his disciples.



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:



- disciples
- dishonest
- important
- little
- loyal
- masters
- money
- serve
- true
- trust
- wealth
- wicked

G	D	N	S	W	Q	R	S	G	M	J	F	M	R	Y	A
S	W	F	E	Y	H	J	Z	A	O	V	N	T	S	L	Q
E	T	S	E	N	O	H	S	I	D	O	S	K	T	O	S
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