



DISHONEST OR JUST STREET-WISE? (LUKE 16:1-13)

Luke regards wealth and material possessions with a rather sceptical eye. In his opinion, they are a positive danger for anyone who wants to be a disciple of Jesus.

Today he gives perhaps grudging approval to the prudent use of money. The parable of the so-called unjust or dishonest steward does not in fact contain any element of dishonesty or embezzlement. A person in the position of household steward (or tax-collector) did not receive a salary or wages. It was expected that they would charge commission on any transactions, and the extra amount would be theirs. The individual in the story was reported to the master, not for anything criminal, but for being extravagant or incompetent, and so was about to lose his livelihood. Thus, by reducing the bills, the steward was sacrificing his immediate remuneration for his long-term advantage: for this reason, the master was able to praise him, which he could hardly have done if there had been fraud involved. The steward was therefore more worldly-wise than dishonest, as the following comment about the children of this world being more astute in their dealings than the children of light makes clear. The message is that almsgiving, or we might call it giving to charity, will be like depositing savings for the next life. ■

LEARN

The steward is not dishonest: he is worldly-wise, or street-wise, he knows how the world works.

The steward was reported for being wasteful or incompetent: there is no suggestion that he was embezzling his master.

Stewards, like tax-collectors, were not paid a salary: they were expected to charge commission on official transactions and that provided their livelihood.

DO

When you go to the bank or the ATM, ask yourself, Where do I really find my sense of security? In God or somewhere else?



SAY

The person who is reliable in something little will be reliable in something more important (Luke 16:10)

REFLECT

Some people are unable to throw anything away: they fill their homes with all sorts of belongings which they never use, but with which they cannot bear to part. Part of the reason may be that they are sentimentally attached to an object which has special memories for them. But often, another reason is that it gives them a sense of security.

There are several parables in Luke's version of the Gospel which speak about accumulating wealth. As usual, the problem is not with money or possessions in themselves, but rather in the person's attitude towards them. Sometimes we hear people speaking about Mammon, as in "You cannot serve God and Mammon". Serve in this sense means worship, and the question is, where is the person's deepest focus, is it

on God or material possessions? Is our sense of security centred on God or on something else?

The reader of the Gospel is being urged to imitate the steward in the parable, who gives away his expected money rather than accumulate it; in this way, later on, his master's customers will remember with gratitude what he did for them and assist him when he finds himself in need of help. Sometimes Christians are accused of helping others for an ulterior motive: that they expect some sort of spiritual reward, rather than doing something simply because it is the right thing to do. Perhaps the parable could be asking us to look at ourselves and our lifestyle and to examine it in the light of the teachings of Jesus. Do we use money and natural resources prudently or wastefully? Can we let go of present practices for the sake of the long-term good of everyone? ■

PARISH OF DROMORE

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Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Mass Times

St Colman's, Dromore All Saints, Ballela
Sunday 11.00am Sunday 9.45am

Weekday Mass Times : St Colman's

Mon, Wed & Thurs : Liturgy of the word - 9.30am

Tues & Fri: Mass 9.30am

Sat: 10-11am, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Weekday Mass times: All Saints

Thurs: 7pm

Ballela Anniversaries

Sun 22: Sr Bronagh Meehan

Brigid O'Rourke

Sun 29: Sarah McEvoy

Frank Magee

Dromore Anniversaries

Sun 22: Rosalind Rooney

Isabel McEvoy

Fri 27: Arthur McCann

Sun 29: Vincent Mallon

Robert Guy, Rose, Dan & Elizabeth Brennan &
Deceased members of the Kelly, Brennan & Guy
Family

Offertory Promise Collection £1012.62

Readers – Dromore

Sun 29: Michaela Zigashane

Sacrament of First Penance, First Holy

Communion & Confirmation

Pupils in Primary 4 & 7, Sept 2019.

Parents of children attending schools other than St Colman's Dromore or neighbouring parish schools e.g. St Colman's Annadone or St Mary's Banbridge who wish to have their children prepared for these sacraments are requested to inform Fr Magennis as soon as possible. We will be starting the classes in a few weeks' time and must have names in before the end of Sept if children are to receive the sacraments next year.

Autumn Leaves Are holding a charity night Dance in St Colman's Hall Dromore on Fri 4th Oct 8pm – late. Music by Chris Betts plus Ballot. Admission £10 includes supper supplied by Eurospar Dromore. All proceeds for Southern Area Hospice. Come along and bring a friend.

Sunday 22nd Sept 2019

Parish Draw Winners Week 26

£100	Yvonne Cull	110
£50	Joe & Ethna Mulgrew	044
£30	Kathleen Doyle	285
£20	John Murphy	135

Ballela G.A.C Lotto

Sun 15th Sept : 6 9 11 21

£10 winner: Clare Downey

Seller: Sean Burns

Jackpot £2000

Family Care Adoption Services (1969-2019)

Family Care Services is presently seeking adoptive families for babies, young children aged 2 years and older and brothers and sisters. To find out more information please contact us at: 02871368592 or 02890691133, Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm or email: anneohagan@familycaresociety.org

The Gall Bog Bar Threshing & Tractor Run

and Family Fun Day Will be held on Sat 28th sept with Registration at 12.00pm. There will be a BBQ & Raffle. The Charities being supported are N.I. Air Ambulance & Willow Grove.

September on Lough Derg Standard One Day

Retreats in September: Sat 21, Sun 22 & Sun 29.

Special Living with Suicide Day Retreat, Sat 28

September. Advance booking is essential for any of these dates. Tel 071 9861518 or email

info@loughderg.org

Southern Area Hospice Coffee Morning

On Sat 28th September from 9.30am – 12 midday in The Anglers Rest, Hosted by Louise Mackin along with her mother and sister. Everyone welcome.

SMA Novena 2019

in honour of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus from Mon. 23rd Sept – Tues 1st Oct.

Mass & Novena Prayers each day at 10.00am & 7.30pm. African Missions, Dromantine, Newry BT34 1RH.

Do you need financial or practical assistance or even a friendly chat?

The St. Vincent De Paul Society is here to help. You can contact us through our helpline number: 07738838187