

2025_09_21 Homily
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/092125.cfm>

This last week I heard the story of a priest who had to preach about today's Gospel, and he began his homily saying: "In few years, all the members of this congregation will be dead." After this, the priest noticed a man sitting in the first pew and laughing. So, the priest asked the man: "What is so funny? Why are you laughing at what I just said?" The man answered, "Because I don't belong to this congregation."

The administrator in today's Gospel, manages the money of the owner of the land into his own pocket. Someone tells the owner of the land what his manager is doing. The manager is called to give an account on his work. He is a betrayer who cannot correct his mistakes and will lose his position. So, he undertakes an additional betrayal: He calls in his master's debtors and has them rewrite their bills in their own favor and against the interests of his employer. In this way he lays obligations on people who will feel that they have to support him later. Surprisingly in this parable, Jesus praises the manager because of the consistency and initiative with which he rescues his own existence. He proceeds quickly and as efficiently as possible, with commitment and passion to save his life.

In the face of God's Kingdom, we are also called to proceed quickly and as efficiently as possible. The Kingdom is offered to us, here, now, and today, but it will only come to us if we engage our minds, our imagination, our daily efforts, and our whole existence, with commitment and passion for our eternal salvation. The manager did nothing halfway. He went all the way. He risked everything and invested everything.

Dear brothers and sisters: The message today is about our commitment and passion for the Kingdom of God. Nothing in life that is vital can be done without commitment and passion to be a follower of Christ also requires commitment. Too often we treat God and the church and our attention to our growth as disciples, as if it is an optional thing, something of little consequence, or perhaps something we might get to in retirement. Our faith often means little to us compared to work, money, security, and family. But to be a baptized person is to have made a commitment, to become a GOOD person, even a holy person. Commitment is often long and hard, demanding dedication to something greater than our own gain or comfort or self-expression or security.

Every day we have to be committed to daily prayer, generous charity, and active kindness to support social justice and our local church, to pay attention to the needs of our brothers and sisters, to pray unceasingly for the conversion of sinners, to see how we can use our time, talent and treasure, for the service of God's Kingdom here on earth. "Prepare a full account of your stewardship" says the master, which is something all of us will be asked one day. Through daily and consistent commitment, we will be prepared.

In addition to commitment, passion is what makes us keep our commitments. To have passion for our faith, is to be involved and immersed in the contradictions and mystery of our life. Having passion for God's Kingdom will lead us to find our resources, our energy, our courage, our motivation to become fully human, day, by day. With passion for our faith, we will realize that Christ and our faith are always related to the spiritual, divine, sexual, political, social, and economic dimensions of our life. The passionate person always realizes that God is every bit as present in the street, in the classroom, in the hospital, in the prison, in bed, as in church. The passionate person is one who can go through whatever situation in life and discover God in it.

How committed and passionate are we in relation to our faith? Are we committed and passionate about Sunday Mass? Are we committed and passionate about kindness and love in the midst of too much hatred and bitterness? Are we committed and passionate about social justice in the midst of too much suffering and injustice in our world? Are we committed and passionate about righteousness and love, in the midst of too much corruption and immorality? What about concern for the environment, the vulnerable of the world, and the urgent need for peace among nations and individuals?

Commitment and passion led a bad administrator to change his present and future life. The same for us: one day we will give an account to the One who gave us everything that we have done with our talents, time and treasure. Commitment and passion for God's Kingdom can lead us to change our life now and will give us the chance to have an eternal life in heaven. The saints of the Church have been people of strong commitment and passion for the Gospel of Christ, and they transformed their small worlds.

What about you and me?

The Universal Prayer
Sunday 21st, September 2025
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebrant:

Sisters and brothers, St. Paul has urged us to lift up our hands reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument, especially for those in authority.

1. For Pope Leo, that his constant appeals for peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine and many other places, will be heard by world leaders, especially on this International Day of Peace.

We pray to the Lord.

2. For the Member States of the United Nations, gathered for its 80th General Assembly at this time, that with no anger or argument, they will unite their efforts to building peace everywhere.

We pray to the Lord.

3. For the Sisters of St. Mary of Guadalupe, that they may grow in their commitment to serve the Church and that more young women may consecrate their lives to God's Kingdom in this religious community.

We pray to the Lord.

4. For all people trapped in situations of war and violence and natural disasters, longing for peace and safety, that food, water, shelter and medical supplies will be supplied quickly.

We pray to the Lord.

5. For each other, that we will prove to be trustworthy people in the small and large issues of life, generating hope in all who are struggling in life.

We pray to the Lord.

6. For all who have died in present wars across the globe, that they may be taken to the place of eternal peace with the Holy Trinity, where there is no more pain or loneliness.

We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant:

Eternal God, we lift up our hands reverently to you, ages and with no anger in our hearts or argument among us, seek your merciful protection upon all in danger, distress or despair.

Through Christ our Lord.