

Twenty Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time, September 22, 2025

The words spoken by the rich man to the dishonest steward at least in part will be spoken to each one of us. *“Prepare a full account of your stewardship.”* When we think about preparing an account of our stewardship, we ask ourselves a basic question: “What good have I done with the gifts that God has entrusted to me?” That is the basic question. What good have I done with the gifts that God has entrusted to me? And very often, we look at this question under the three headings of time, talent and treasure and say, “How have I spent my time, this gift of time, that God has given me? How have I used the talents and skills and abilities that God has given to me? Have I used them for the building up the Kingdom of God including my neighbor? Or do I tend to keep them to myself? And the question of treasure – all the material gifts that we have because of God’s goodness to us, His generosity, how will we use those for the building up of the Kingdom including our neighbor especially the neighborhood we live in.

Truly, these are good questions to look at. How do we use the time, and talent and treasure God has given us to do something good? Believe it or not, stewardship is not just an economic matter. Think about the Parable of the Talents, you remember there was a master who was going away and he entrusted one of his servants with five talents, another with two talents and another with one. And then when he returned, he expected them to have grown those talents that he had given them. But it is not just about what those servants could produce. In the end, the master doesn't just say, “Very fine, I will bank those five, those extra two, and you all can go on your way.” The master instead says, “Well done, good and faithful servant, come and share your master's joy.” So, the moral there is that good stewardship does not just lead to an increase for economic terms. It

is not that God is just looking for us to produce something but rather the good stewardship leads to a share in the life and the joy of God. Entering into the master's joy, you can picture the servant being brought into the home, sitting at the same table with the master, having a great feast. That is the result of what good stewardship. not just the multiplication of what has been given.

The other moral of this story in that Parable and today's Parable is that poor stewardship leads to separation from the master. I believe in the Parable of the Talents, the servant that parable and given one talent has simply taken that one talent and buried it was sent out into the darkness where there was wailing and grinding of teeth. In today's Gospel Parable, the rich man said to the steward, "*You can no longer be my steward*" because he's been exposed for being dishonest, and he was being removed.

So, it is not just that God is interested in getting a return of His investment in us. He has something more than that in mind when he gives us gifts. God gives us gifts so that we have something to give! He gives us gifts so that we have something to give. And in giving, our hearts are expanded in the saving love of God, and we expand in charity. So, when God gives gifts to us and not just time, talent and treasure, whatever gifts Gad has given to us, they are intended for the purpose of actually calling us to Himself because He gives the gifts so that we can give and we grow in love and our growth in love brings us closer to Him. It makes us more and more like Him.

So, if you go back to the original question, "What good have I done with the gifts God has entrusted to me," we realize God has entrusted these great gifts for the purpose of saving us, for the purpose of increasing our hearts in charity and drawing us to Himself.

And so, it is good to examine our stewardship in terms of time, and talent, and treasure, but what about the grace of our Baptism? How can the steward in that gift? The gift of divine life poured into our soul? How attentive have we been to that gift? What about the grace of every Holy Communion? How can we steward it? What about the gift of the Sacrament of Penance, Reconciliation, Confession? How operative is that gift meditated on in our life? How have we stewarded that gift? Are we using the gifts that God has given to make provision for eternal life? There's a good question to ask.

Are we making provision for eternal life? How effective are we day in and day out over the course of a week to these matters that pertain to eternal life? Well, sometimes we think about them and sometimes we don't. Isn't that honest truth? Yes. I heard 'Yes.' [laughter] Thank you. It is true, we are not always the best steward. We always have room to open the door of our heart. I am not saying that everyone has to be at church all day every day. We don't usually have the availability for that. But we can always open the doors of our hearts more widely to Christ.

And this is where in the reality of 'community' comes in. The Lord Jesus in His great, perfect wisdom, designed the Christian life to be lived in the context of community, not for each of us to be Lone Rangers, trying to do it on our own. I find that I become a better steward when my journey of faith is shared with others. I find that I do more poorly when I try to do it on my own; when I don't, when I don't share anything of my own spiritual journey with others. So, the parish community is actually designed to be a place where we obtain support that we need for being good stewards and walking in the path with Christ more faithfully. It's not just meant to be a place where we gather to worship and pray and come to the Lord, though it is all of those things. We have to see the Church as that. But there's

also the dynamic of a community in which we find support for living the Christian life.

Even this dishonest steward in the parable, what happens when he gets canned? “What am I going to do?” He starts making connections with people. He realizes he is going to need to lean on these people for help when he can’t be in the rich man’s household anymore. I am not saying that we should follow that example per se, but connection is important. How do we invest and engage in the life of the parish?

Are there people in the parish who know what the spiritual journey is like? Not mine but all of ours. We ask ourselves that question, is there anyone who can share in the walk with me? Is there someone who can help me be accountable in terms of stewardship, in terms of my resolutions that I have made? Or is my spiritual life mostly just a private thing that I am doing individually? We would love to see the parish become more and more of place where this spiritual journey can be shared so that we can support one another on this walk. Of course, with God’s grace first and foremost.

“Prepare a full account of your stewardship.” For us today we are asked to look at the reality of stewardship in our life asking the question: “How do I use the time, talent and treasure God has given to me but also, the other gifts, His wonderful graces. The graces of Baptism, the graces of Holy Communion, the grace of Marriage for those who are married, the grace of Confession. How am I stewarding these skills, these graces? Am I making provision for eternal life? And am I am engaging in the life of the parish community?” Maybe each one of us has a role in building up the parish community so it becomes more and more a place where the journey of faith is shared.