

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET AMOS

Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end,
saying, ‘When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain?
And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale,
that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great
and deal deceitfully with false balances,
that we may buy the poor for silver,
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and sell the chaff of the wheat?’

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
‘Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THE RESPONSE TO THE PSALM IS:

! Responsorial Psalm

Ps 113(112):1-2. 4-6. 7-8. R cf. 1a, 7b

Praise the LORD, who raises the poor.

Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!

May the name of the LORD be blest
both now and for evermore!

Praise the LORD, who raises the poor.

High above all nations is the LORD,
above the heavens his glory.

Who is like the LORD, our God,
who dwells on high,
who lowers himself to look down
upon heaven and earth?

Praise the LORD, who raises the poor.

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from the ash heap he raises the poor,
to set them in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.

Praise the LORD, who raises the poor.

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO TIMOTHY

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers,
intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,
for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a
peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our
Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the
knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God
and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom
for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.

For this I was appointed a preacher and an Apostle — I am
telling the truth, I am not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in
faith and truth.

I desire then that in every place the men should pray,
lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling.

THE WORD OF THE LORD.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus Christ, though he was rich,
yet for your sake he became poor,
so that you by his poverty might become rich.
Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.”’

And the manager said to himself, “What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.”

So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, “How much do you owe my master?”

He said, “A hundred measures of oil.”

He said to him, “Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.”

Then he said to another, “And how much do you owe?”

He said, “A hundred measures of wheat.”

He said to him, “Take your bill and write eighty.”

The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness.

For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.’

And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

‘One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

If then you have not been faithful with the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

And if you have not been faithful with that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?

No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve God and money.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

THE REFLECTION

In Jesus' time if a wealthy man' wanted more wealth , he would lend at interest, sometimes perhaps Jesus inflates the amount to make a point. If a starving man wanted food he would have to borrow as best he could, wheat or oil. A steward or manager might be appointed to do these negotiations. If the steward did his job badly there would be no loans, no profit. It would be as a mistake employing him: threatened with this our steward changes his business plan, lower interest and so more profit. He deserves praise according to his boss. I think it is a mistake to give him the name the dishonest steward. Sometimes the tradition imposes a translation, Mary Magdalene was not a repentant sinner but a truly loyal follower of Jesus to the end on earth and the first witness of the resurrection. who had been healed by Jesus.

Jesus' story is based on very earthly skills, a story understood by his crowds. Jesus is using this story to encourage his followers to be worldly wise. His followers should be just as clever, using money well, building churches, schools, hospitals, and building social justice such as helping the homeless.

Jesus also points out the temptation of earthly riches, using our gifts unworthily and missing the opportunity to do good. To days story echoes the story of the talents; given 10 make 10 more, given one-use that one. Another phrase comes to mind-be as wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Followers of Jesus recognise we have been gifts of faith and Love. Our adequate response is to give thanks in faith and make that faith show by acts of love carefully and well.