



CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP REQUIRES URGENCY AND INITIATIVE

THE PARABLE OF A STEWARD who squandered his master's property recalls striking cases of corruption and mismanagement in flood-control projects in the Philippines, particularly exposed by investigations beginning in 2025. One of the most disturbing stories concerns "ghost" flood-control projects that were reported as completed but were either absent, relocated without authorization, or already existed before the project was supposedly undertaken.

The flood-control scandal is ultimately not only a story about money. It is a story about public trust. A peso stolen from a flood-control project is not simply a peso stolen from the government. It can mean: a riverbank that is not protected, a drainage system that is not built, a community that remains vulnerable, a family whose home is destroyed.

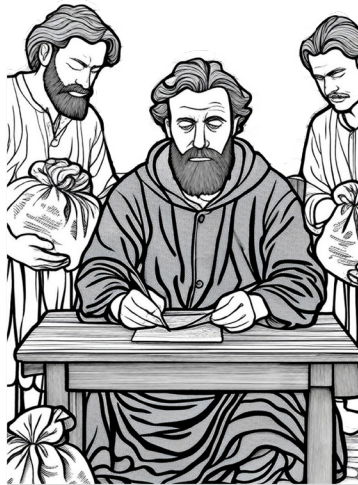
That is why the scandal has generated such strong public anger. Citizens are calling for investigations, prosecutions, and recovery of public funds. Those involved in corruption should resign from office or be jailed. Sadly, justice often fails to catch rich and powerful personalities.

For this reason, today's Gospel is perplexing. The difficulty in the parable is understandable: the steward is dishonest, yet the master seems to praise him.

Does the steward get off "scot-free"?

The steward actually does not escape the consequences. The master has already decided to dismiss him: "You can no

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longer be my steward." His job is lost.

Neither is Jesus commending his dishonesty. Rather, he is commending his **shrewdness, foresight, and decisive action**. What the steward does next is an act of self-preservation. Knowing that he has little time left, he quickly reduces the debts of his master's debtors so that, when he is unemployed, they might welcome him into their homes.

Notice what the master praises: **not the fraud, but the shrewdness**. Jesus makes the same distinction. He does not say, "Be dishonest like this steward." Rather, he says: "The children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light."

In other words: people who pursue worldly goals often show remarkable determination, creativity, foresight, and

perseverance. Why are God's people sometimes less energetic and less resourceful when it comes to the things of God?

Jesus seems to be saying: "If worldly people can be so determined in pursuing temporary goals, how much more should you be determined in pursuing what is eternal?"

What does the parable teach us?

That we should use our time wisely. The steward realizes that his situation is urgent. He does not postpone action. Jesus reminds us that our own time is limited. There will come a moment when we must give an account of our lives.

That we should be farsighted. The steward thinks about what will happen after he loses his position. Jesus challenges us to think not only about today but about eternity.

That earthly possessions are temporary. The steward knows that money and position will not last. Jesus therefore moves toward the lesson: "Make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you may be welcomed into eternal dwellings" (Lk 16:9). Money is temporary, but it can be used for something eternal—helping others, serving the poor, and advancing God's Kingdom.

Christian discipleship requires urgency and initiative. The uncomfortable point of the parable is that the steward is more decisive about securing his earthly future than many believers are about securing their eternal future.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 33:11, 10)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

The designs of his Heart are from age to age, to rescue their souls from death and to keep them alive in famine.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—Today's Gospel presents the Parable of the Dishonest Steward. At first, the story may seem strange because Jesus appears to praise a dishonest man. But Jesus is not praising his dishonesty; he is highlighting his cleverness, decisiveness, and ability to act when faced with a crisis.

The Gospel challenges us to ask: Do we use the gifts, opportunities, and resources entrusted to us wisely for the Kingdom of God? May we learn to be as determined and creative in doing good as people are in pursuing their worldly interests.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

All—I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, (striking your breast) through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Clothe us, Lord God, with the virtues of the Heart of your Son and set us aflame with his love, that, conformed to his image, we may merit a share in eternal redemption.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



Reading (Phil 3:17—4:1) *(Sit)*

St. Paul reminds the Philippians that our way of life should reflect where we truly belong. He warns against those who live only for earthly things and invites us to imitate those whose lives are centered on Christ.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

JOIN WITH OTHERS in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you, and now even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is their "shame." Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and my crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 122)

R—Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

1. I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the LORD." And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R)**

2. Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD **(R)**

3. According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of the Lord. **(R)**

Alleluia (1 Jn 2.5) *(Stand)*

All—Alleluia, alleluia. Whoever keeps the word of Christ, the love of God is truly perfected in him. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Lk 16:1-8)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All—Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS SAID to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from my stewardship, they may welcome me into their homes.' He called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' Then to another he said, 'And you, how much

do you owe?’ He replied, ‘One hundred measures of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.’ The master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.”

—The Gospel of the Lord.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (*Sit*)

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Parable of the Dishonest Steward teaches that we have to be prudent and clever not just in dealing with earthly concerns but above all with the concerns of God’s Kingdom. May we forego earthly profits to be rich in matters of God.

R—Lord, make us your wise and prudent stewards.

C—May Church leaders be simple as doves but wise as serpents, using things at her disposal for the cause of the Gospel. We pray. (**R**)

C—May parish priests welcome the advice and help of lay persons who can contribute their expertise in the smooth running of the parish and in its manifold pastoral ministry. We pray. (**R**)

C—Like the steward in parable, may we have the wisdom to forego profits and benefits for the greater good that will result from it. We pray. (**R**)

C—May we apply our talents, cleverness, and zeal with which we attend to our business and projects also to managing what pertains to the Gospel and salvation of souls. We pray. (**R**)

C—May the Lord Jesus, meek and humble of heart, give rest to those overly burdened, and restore to them the joy of living. We pray. (**R**)

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: (**R**)

P—Lord God, you gave your people the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit to build up the Church, the Body of Christ. May we be truly wise and rejoice in his consolation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Presentation of the Gifts

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings (*Stand*)

P—O God, Father of mercies, who, because of the great love with which you loved us, with untold goodness gave us your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that, being perfectly united with him, we may offer you worthy homage.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

Preface: The boundless charity of Christ

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For raised up high on the Cross, he gave himself up for us with a wonderful love and poured out blood and water from his pierced side, the wellspring of the Church’s Sacraments, so that, won over to the open heart of the Savior, all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy... (Kneel)

Acclamation (*Stand*)

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord’s Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion

(*Kneel*)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Jn 7:37-38)

Thus says the Lord: Let whoever is thirsty come to me and drink. Streams of living water will flow from within the one who believes in me.

Prayer after Communion

(*Stand*)

P—Let us pray. (*Pause*)

Made partakers in your Sacrament of charity, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that we may be conformed to Christ on earth and merit to be coheirs of his glory in heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing. (*Pause*)

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that the Christian people may understand the truth they profess and love the heavenly liturgy in which they participate.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—The Mass is ended. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.



PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Divine Jesus, you have said, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you," behold me kneeling at your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart and pronounced by your adorable lips. I come to ask this favor: *(Here silently mention your petitions.)*

To whom can I turn if not to you whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to you, Heart of Jesus. In you I find consolation when afflicted, protection when

persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that you can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it, and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy and you will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, and your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses a reason for granting my prayers.

O Sacred Heart, whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising, and serving you. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of your adorable Heart which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled by me and by all your creatures forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: to be without pity for those who are suffering or in distress. Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. You have entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with you. Amen.

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