

**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
**September 22, 2019**  
**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Amos 8:4–7 † 1 Timothy 2:1–8 † Luke 16:1–13**



**Reflection by: Dyann Brown, OPA**

Today's gospel presents the parable of a rich man and his unjust steward. Upon discovery of squandering the master's property, the steward was dismissed from his post. In order to find a quick way to maintain his current standard of living, the dismissed steward devised a scheme to collect promissory notes from his master's debtors. Upon receiving the promissory notes from the servant, the master commended his prudence. What? Yes, even though it was a dishonest act, the steward was rewarded for his inventiveness.

The story has a broader meaning. The master's generosity of spirit is what is at work. Much like the parable of the prodigal in last Sunday's gospel, the father's generosity of spirit to warmly welcome home the son who squandered his inheritance, regretted it and returned home.

So too Jesus finds the spirit of goodness within the "least of these." Trustworthy folk co-mingle with others who don't represent the best of humanity. We can see many examples of this in our daily lives.

The parable further indicates true and lasting wealth—in spirit and action—does not come by dishonestly. Trustworthiness in small deeds will be rewarded in larger matters. Trustworthy people—the do-gooders—will be always be in company with our Lord. Yet, in this parable Jesus upends the idea that He embraces only those pure of heart and deed. Not true. He is in company with the untrustworthy, the squanders, connivers, and, thank God, you and me.