**25th Sunday Ordinary Time, cycle. C. 2025.**

Some years ago a **French communist Newspa**per addressed the French Christians saying, “***Your Gospel is a much more powerful weapon than our Marxist philosophy of life. Yet we will defeat you in the long run… How can anyone believe in your Gospel if you refuse to live it out in your live***s?” In the Gospel today we have the most powerful weapon for a radical transformation. Bu our faith in the Gospel is simply a dead thing if we don’t have an active concern for social justice.

Amos ass well as the Gospel take up the problem of wealth and approach it in too different ways. Amos is blunt and aggressive and he **spoke frankly and critically and confronted his con**temporaries. He called the people back to wholeness of life and solidarity as one people under God. He reminded them of the futility of their **fancy worshi**pping and solemn assemblies as long as they kept exploiting the poor. **When our worship of God remains wholly uncritical of the injustice arou**nd us, it becomes a privileged theater-show, signifying nothing. Can we presume to enjoy the protection of God while we neglect to show concern for the poor of Go**d?** **Can faith and greed grow together in the same heart?**

Jesus in today’s Gospel tells us an unusual parable which appears to support dishonesty. But the message is clear. The **steward is quite creative in dealing with the loss of his job and he is praised not for his dishonesty but for his ability to cope with an emergency situation with great speed to ensure his own future**. If a dishonest man can use employers’ money to ensure that there will be people to welcome him when he is sacked, how much more should the honest people use their **money in such a way that they will be welcomed into the kingdom of Go**d?

Jesus reminds us that the use of money should always be related **to social justice and personal respo**nsibility. Our dealings with our fellowmen ensure our fellowship in God’s kingdom. He uses the parable of the unjust steward to remind us of the **need to be more zealous for heavenly things**. It is the stewards’ resourcefulness and ingenuity that Jesus recommends, not his dishonest methods, for ensuring his future. Worldly people go too far greater **trouble to secure their wealth than devout spiritual men do obtain spiritual wealth.**

 **Injustice between nations, between the rich and the poor is as much prevalent today as it was in Israel at the time of Moses.** The oppression of the poor is one of the sins crying to Heaven for vengeance. God heard that cry in the past when, 25 years after the death of Moses, **Israel was overpowered by Assyria.** He surely hears this cry now too, **and the oppressors will be judged and condemned**. But we are given a chance to put our affairs in order before God calls us to render an account of our stewardship. Our God is just and He wants us to be just and honest. **Today’s Gospel has teaching for us on three levels.**

1. In a crisis situation, act resolutely and resourcefully. The manager faced with a situation. But he acted promptly and prudently. **An encounter with Christ, either by hearing his word or by some events in life, is a moment of cris**is. The temptation is to postpone any action. But Christ counsels us to act resolutely and resourcefully.
2. When we require a friend or someone to do business with, the first quality **we look for is trustwo**rthiness. This is also the purpose of demanding a character certificate. How happy we are when we find a **faithful friend or a loyal colleague and how it saddens us when our trust is betrayed.**
3. **Divided loyalty leads to divisiveness, disintegration of ones’ personality and mammon as our g**od. Anything or anyone that prevents us from loving and serving God wholeheartedly can become an idol, And Christ emphatically says: “**You cannot serve God and mammon”. How do we measure up to Christs’ require**ment?
4. **Experience tells us that wealth may leave us or be taken away**. But God is our firm anchor. The dollar in our pocket is here today and gone tomorrow, but the Lord is always there for us, and all around us. The **Lord has given us two hands-one to give a, one to receive**. We need both. Fold those hands together and we can pray to God who is the source of every blessing. **What Amos says is** true- ***that God never forgets a thing we have done***- so as we deepen our faith commitment today, let us devote more of our lives in God’s ways. It may take a lifetime to be completely in service to God, but we need to keep that central to our being.