

## Homily Summary – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – God and Wealth

**Overview:** God has given us many good things—money, possessions, opportunities—but these gifts are not ends in themselves. They are meant to serve the two great commandments: to love God and to love our neighbour (cf. Mark 12:30–31). Today’s readings challenge us to reflect on how we use the blessings entrusted to us. Are we trustworthy stewards who use God’s gifts for His glory and the good of others, or do we allow greed, selfishness, or waste to guide us?

### Main Points

1. **Gifts Are for Love, Not Greed**
  - Money and possessions are not bad in themselves, but their purpose is to serve love of God and neighbour.
  - Greed corrupts this purpose, as seen in scams, unfair practices, or self-serving dishonesty.
2. **The Parable of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1–13)**
  - Jesus doesn’t praise dishonesty but the cleverness of the steward.
  - We are called to use our resources wisely—not for self-interest, but for God’s kingdom.
  - One day, God will ask us to give an account of how we used our resources.
3. **You Cannot Serve Two Masters**
  - Jesus warns that no one can serve both God and wealth.
  - Wealth makes a terrible master, but when surrendered to God, it becomes a tool for love, justice, and mercy.
4. **The Call to Generosity and Detachment**
  - Simplicity brings freedom, as seen in preparing for seminary with very few possessions.
  - Generosity—giving to the poor, supporting the Church, and helping the needy—brings lasting joy.
5. **Christian Stewardship**
  - Wealth can solve some problems, but not the deepest ones (cf. St. Teresa of Kolkata).
  - God invites us to radical trust: to give Him a “blank cheque,” allowing Him to direct our lives.
  - True happiness is found in surrender and faithful stewardship.

---

### Scripture References

- **Deuteronomy 15:7–11** – Do not be hard-hearted toward the needy.
- **Psalms 113:7** – “He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap.”
- **Luke 16:1–13** – The parable of the dishonest manager; you cannot serve God and wealth.
- **Matthew 6:33** – “But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”
- **1 Timothy 6:10** – “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.”

---

### Catechism References

- **CCC 2401–2409** – The Seventh Commandment: respect for goods of others, justice in economic matters.
- **CCC 2424** – Warning against making money an idol.
- **CCC 2443–2449** – Love for the poor; the duty to share with those in need.
- **CCC 2544–2547** – Detachment from riches and the beatitude of the poor in spirit.
- **CCC 1723** – True happiness is not found in riches but in God alone.

---

### Reflection Questions

1. Am I a trustworthy steward of the blessings God has given me—my wealth, talents, and opportunities?
2. Do I ever allow greed or selfishness to guide how I use my resources?

3. Where is God calling me to be more generous—with my time, money, or possessions?
4. Can I surrender to God with a “blank cheque,” trusting Him to direct my life and resources?
5. How can I imitate Mary’s example of total trust and offering to the Lord?

### **Rhyme summary:**

God’s gifts are blessings, so we’re called to be wise,  
 They’re meant to love God and our neighbor likewise.  
 We can’t serve both money and God up above,  
 True riches are found when we live out God’s love.  
 The manager was clever, but he acted wrong,  
 We’re called to be faithful to God to whom we belong.  
 So give God your blank cheque, and let His will be done,  
 Your treasure in heaven will outweigh every sum.

### **Reasons to come to Mass each weekend**

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’"

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.’"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Psalms 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’"

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

### **Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith**

- Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>