

“The Master’s Glasses”
Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C
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I started wearing glasses when I was a sophomore in high school. I noticed that I needed to squint more and more to be able to see the board. I used to sit mid to front row and I still had trouble seeing what was being written, things started to look blurrier and blurrier as time passed. My parents took me to the eye doctor, and I was prescribed glasses. I didn’t want to have glasses because, glasses back in my day were not very fashionable, also I played sports and the sports goggles were not very attractive, besides the fact that they were very expensive. Since my parents got me the glasses, and spent the money for them, I figured the least I could do was wear them. When I wore the glasses, it was like a miracle in my eyes, I was able to see clearly, sharp, and even details that I didn’t remember seeing, all because of a pair of glasses. Now I can’t imagine my life without the glasses, if I take them off, I feel like the blind man in the gospel, when Jesus asked him if he saw something, and he said he saw people like trees that walked. **Without my glasses everything is a blur, everything changes its appearance and my perspective of everything is different.**

Today’s readings bring forth the idea of a **prudent steward**. To be prudent means to act rightly, to act timely, but to do that we need to be able to see well. Prudence means to see things rightly and as they truly are, so that we can act accordingly. A way that I think about it, is that being prudent means putting on a pair of glasses, being able to see clearly and not blurry. Furthermore, a prudent steward is a steward who is responsible for managing and handling his master’s business. For that steward to do a good job or to truly manage his master’s businesses well, the steward needs to **see as the master sees, the steward needs to put on the master’s glasses.**

So, who is a steward? a steward is a person responsible for something of value. A steward is a person given authority over something, given power over something, or given the administration over something of value. Our Lord has made us collaborators or participants of his salvific work. He has made us stewards of his many treasures. We are stewards because he is the creator, and he is the owner of it all, but has given us power or authority over certain areas of his creation. Each one of us has a circle of influence or stewardship realm given by our Lord, within this circle, we are responsible for administering and managing his possessions materially and spiritually to the best of our abilities. As we have heard in the readings, our Lord detest abuse, injustice, inequalities, especially when it comes to the poor, the marginalize and the vulnerable, that is where you and I come in. **We are called to become saints and in the process of sanctification we need to be prudent stewards. For us to be prudent stewards we need to put on our master’s glasses so that we can see how our Master sees and so that we can act rightly.**

Jesus presents to us a very challenging question in the gospel; **who is your master, is it God or is it mammon?** We can't serve them both because they are both opposites, it would be like putting on two pairs of glasses, and both with different prescriptions. God is love and our creator, where mammon is the representation of greed, pride, and the lures of the world. If we want to serve God, and we want to be prudent stewards, we need to see as God sees. The readings today give us a little insight into God's vision, in the book of the prophet Amos, he tells us that God sees injustice, people taking advantage of the poor, abusing the poor, cheating, and trampling. Then in the gospel reading, Jesus tells the story of a dishonest steward, so what does God see? people taking advantage, dishonesty, and again no regards for the poor. Our Lord's vision has an affinity for the poor, for the marginalized, for the abused, for the neglected. As a prudent steward if you put on God's glasses, that is what you will see, and then you will see that as a steward you have been giving the responsibility to assist.

At times we think that we need to solve the world's problems, but I would say start small because he who is not a good steward of the little, will not be a good steward of the greater. There are three main areas that we can focus on within our stewardship, **our time, talents, and treasures**. Remember Jesus's summary of the commandments: **Love God and Love Neighbor**. Ask yourself, how much of your time, talents and treasure are you devoting to the Love of God? How about to the Love of Neighbor? Putting on God's glasses, we can see his affinity for the poor, abused, marginalized, and taken advantage of, but let's not forget that the poor are not only those lacking material resources, but also those who are spiritually lacking. The church teaches us the corporal works of mercy, but it also teaches us the spiritual works of mercy. This is because the human person is composed of body and soul, as such we are called to be stewards of both, our Lord wants us to be prudent stewards of the entire human person.

Think about **your circle of influence**, how can you be a prudent steward of your time, talents, and treasures in your current state of life? Are you married or single? A student, homemaker, employed, unemployed, retired? A priest, deacon, spiritual leader, catechist, teacher? **How can you use your time, talents, and treasures to help others in their journey to sanctification?**

Who is your master, is it God or mammon? Whose glasses do you have on? If you want God's glasses and don't know how to get them... **Just ask him...** In the second reading today, our Lord tells us to **pray for everyone and to pray always**. The best way for us to get God's perspective, his view, his vision is to pray. When we pray, we are accepting that we need our Lord, that we need our master, we are humbling ourselves to his will. When we pray, we get to intercede for others, we get to love others by asking for them. If you want to be a prudent steward, if you want God's glasses, **simply ask him** and that is a petition that he will surely grant.

Together, let us ask him to help us be prudent stewards, to give us his vision so that we can see what he sees and the courage/ability to act as he would act. As we continue with the mass, let us give thanks for his great love for us, and let us ask that our decision to serve him or mammon becomes an easy one.