

Sunday, September 21, 2025 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: Psalm 113

5 - Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,

6 - but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

7 - The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

Cf. Mary's Magnificat – Luke 1: 46-55

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Timothy was a young follower of Jesus who enjoyed a unique relationship with the apostle

Howard Hendricks – everyone should have a Paul, a Barnabas, and a Timothy

Who is your Paul, your Barnabas, your Timothy?

If you do not have one, ask God for one and keep on asking until He sends one your way

Acts 16: 1- Paul never would have met Timothy if he had not been willing and able to go back to Lystra

1: 1-2 – Paul to Timothy, my loyal child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1: 3 – I urge you to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine.

1: 6-7 – Some people have deviated from these and turned to meaningless talk, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make assertions.

1: 18-19 – I am giving you these instructions, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies made earlier about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, having faith and a good conscience. Cf. 2 Timothy 4: 7.

1: 19-20 – By rejecting conscience, certain persons have suffered shipwreck in their faith; among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have turned over to Satan.

2 Corinthians 11: 25 – Paul was involved in at least four shipwrecks.

2 Timothy 4: 14-15 – Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm. You also must beware of him.

2: 1-2 - I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.

2: 3-4 - God our Savior desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

2: 5-6 - There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all.

3: 1 – Whoever aspires to the office of bishop desires a noble task.

3: 2-5 – Qualities for leadership – integrity, emotional maturity, and leadership in the home rather than success in business.

3: 10 – Before they are appointed as deacons, they should be given other responsibilities in the church as a test of their character and ability.

3: 14-15 – I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God.

3: 16 – He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, taken up in glory.

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

This is one of the most unusual parables that Jesus ever told.

We could call it the Parable of the Crooked Money Manager, who really “cooked the books” of his trusting employer and used dishonest means for his own gain and benefit.

In verse 8 Jesus divides the entire human race into two kinds of people – the children of this age and the children of light.

Children of this age devote their entire lives to getting ahead in this world because they believe that this world is all there is.

Jesus is saying, “Children of light, wake up!” Children of light need a good, healthy dose of worldly wisdom because they live in and have to operate in a world that is filled with children of this age.

Three Principles for Money Management that Jesus is giving us in this parable.

1. Your best investment is in people whom you will see in heaven.

The crooked money manager gave discounts to people so that they would receive him favorably once he had lost his job.

So Jesus is saying that while we still have the opportunity, we should use our money to influence people so that when we come to our heavenly home, we will have friends there to welcome us.

2. What you do with God’s money now shows Him how much He can trust you.

Verse 10 – “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.”

The main reason why God gives us worldly wealth now is to test us – to see how well we will manage what He has already given us.

If we prove ourselves trustworthy with worldly wealth, then God will know that He can trust us with true riches.

True riches include the opportunity to have a real influence and impact upon the lives of other people.

The real issue is not whether God is trustworthy. The real issue is whether we are trustworthy – including whether or not God can trust us with managing His money.

Are you showing God that He can trust you with more than what He has entrusted you with so far?

3. Money is a great servant but a terrible master.

Verse 13 – “No slave can serve two masters. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The real proof for whether we place God first can be found in what we do with the money that He has already entrusted to us.

Verse 9 – Are you investing your money in ways so that when you get to heaven there will be people there to greet you and thank you for the way you gave to the Lord?