

SEPTEMBER 21 2025 FATHER ROSHAN LOY D'SOUZA

There is a story about Joe, who worked as a cashier in a small shop. He wasn't rich, but he was always honest. One day, a customer overpaid by mistake. Joe noticed immediately and gave the money back.

Later, a friend who watched the whole thing said, "Why didn't you keep it? No one would have noticed." Joe replied: "Because someone would have noticed: God."

My brothers and sisters, the story in today's longer version of the Gospel might seem strange at first. Jesus tells us about a dishonest steward, someone caught squandering his master's money. And when he gets fired, he starts cutting deals with his boss' debtors to secure his future.

And here is a surprise: Jesus praises the steward. Not for his dishonesty, but for his cleverness. Why? Because the steward acted decisively, creatively, and urgently to secure his future. Jesus isn't telling us to cheat. He's saying, if only we worked that hard and smart to prepare for eternity, as people do to secure their wealth on earth.

In the first reading of today, the prophet Amos gives a strong warning. He says, woe to those who trample on the needy, who cheat the poor. He condemns those who exploit the poor, and manipulate religion for selfish gain. God hears the cries of the oppressed, and will not forget injustice.

This warning remains urgent today. Are we attentive to the needs of the marginalized? Or do we value profit over people? True faith demands integrity—not just in worship, but in daily life. We cannot separate Sunday Mass from weekday actions. We need the grace to act justly, and walk humbly with our God, remembering that his judgement is just, and his heart is always with the poor.

Saint Paul, in the second reading, calls us to prayer. "Pray for everyone. For kings and leaders, so we may live in peace." That's another kind of

stewardship—spiritual stewardship. Praying for our world, for our families, and also for our enemies.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly to the human heart, challenging us with these words: "Whoever is faithful in very little, is faithful also in much." These words cut through our excuses. So often, we tell ourselves, "When I'll have more time, more money, more influence, then I will serve God." But Jesus flips that logic. He says, start now, be faithful in the little things.

This passage is not only about money. Though it mentions wealth, it's about stewardship—how we manage what God entrusts to us: time, relationships, talents, and yes, material goods. If we cannot be trusted with small responsibilities, how can we be trusted with greater ones in the kingdom of God?

Jesus then draws a sharp line. You cannot serve God and mammon, wealth. Mammon here doesn't just mean money—it represents anything we idolize in place of God: status, comfort, security. He is not saying wealth is evil, but that it can easily become a false master. And no one can serve two masters. Our hearts are not meant to be divided.

This is a call to integrity—a life where our inner values align with our outward actions. Faithfulness in the ordinary reveals where our true loyalties lie. Are we generous when no one is watching? Are we honest in small conversations? Do we pray in secret, love without reward, and forgive quietly?

Let us ask God today for the grace to be faithful in the small things, to choose him above all else, and to serve with undivided hearts. May our daily actions, no matter how small, bear witness that God, and not the world, is truly our master.

So the reading advises us to be wise stewards, use our time, money, and influence not just for comfort, but for God's kingdom. To be honest, even in

small things. Jesus said, "Whoever is trustworthy in small matters is also trustworthy in great things." To choose your master. We cannot serve two masters. Every choice we make—how we spend, how we give, how we live—is a declaration of who we serve: God or wealth.

That little act of honesty by Joe, giving back extra change, seemed small, but it spoke loudly. He chose to serve God, not money. And that choice led someone else to Christ.

May we also be the kind of stewards whose lives point others to God.

Amen.