

# 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Luke 16:1–13**

**‘You cannot serve God and money.’**

At that time: Jesus said to the disciples, ‘There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, “What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.” And the manager said to himself, “What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.” So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first, “How much do you owe my master?” He said, “A hundred measures of oil.” He said to him, “Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.” Then he said to another, “And how much do you owe?” He said, “A hundred measures of wheat.” He said to him, “Take your bill and write eighty.” The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.’ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

‘One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful with the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.’

## Reflection

In this story, Jesus talks about a manager who was fired for wasting his master’s possessions. To secure his future, he makes some clever deals with people. But Jesus tells us that no matter how smart we are with money, we can’t serve both God and money. We need to choose what really matters.

St. Vincent de Paul wanted to be wealthy at first, but he began to understand this and he no longer focussed on making money or gaining wealth. Instead, he chose to serve God by helping the poor and those in need. St. Vincent taught us that true wealth comes from loving and serving others, not from what we own or how much money we have.

## Materials needed

Paper and Pens

## Activity

In Jesus’ time, debts and payments were recorded in a big book called a ledger – two columns, one for what was owed, one for what was paid. In the Gospel, the dishonest manager changes the ledger so people owed less – hoping they’d remember his “kindness” later.

St Vincent also “rewrote” his ledger, replacing entries about wealth and status with service, compassion, and love for the poor.

Draw two columns labelled: “Earthly Ledger” and “Heavenly Ledger.”

- If your life was a ledger, what would be recorded under each?
  - Earthly Ledger: things we often value here and now (money, grades, popularity, possessions).
  - Heavenly Ledger: things that matter eternally (kindness, justice, service, faith, generosity).
- Write down suggestions
- Ask each person to imagine their own “ledger” – not to share it, just to think honestly.
  - Which side of the ledger has more entries for me right now?
  - What would I like to see more of in my heavenly ledger?
  - What’s one “Earthly Ledger” entry I could exchange for a “Heavenly Ledger” entry this week?
- Each person silently decides one small action they’ll take this week to “rewrite” their ledger.

*Option: They can write that action on a small piece of paper and keep it as a reminder*

## Call to Action

This week, give up something you value — time, money, or comfort — to meet a real need for someone else. Don’t just serve when it’s easy; choose the action that costs you.

