



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
September 18, 2022

Be Worthy of the Trust Given You

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Civil or religious authority should be a service. Public authority is conferred upon a person by election or appointment in order to promote the common good. Far from a career of self-aggrandizement, it's a call to place the good of others before one's own. For this reason we should obey the instruction of Saint Paul to Timothy and pray fervently for those in authority "that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life" (1 Timothy 2:2).

When speaking about the responsibility of the rich and those

in authority, Jesus places emphasis on trustworthiness. Those delegated authority are there to serve and to honor the confidence given them. That's why financial or political corruption is so grievous, for the person wins the trust of others only to misuse that trust by taking advantage of them. Nothing could be further from their mandate. And when trust is lost in public life and personal relationships, life becomes a walk through a valley of fear where we are governed by self-preservation. Truly then, we become what the Latins wrote: "Man is a wolf to man."

So be worthy of the trust placed in you by your colleagues and clients; neighbors, family, and friends. Be worthy of the confidence God has bestowed with all the talents he has given to use for the good of others. Make your life a responsible gift to others and rejoice in their flourishing more than your own! +

*Make your life
a responsible gift
to others.*

Sunday Readings

Amos 8:4-7

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they have done!

1 Timothy 2:1-8

I ask that...prayers...be offered for everyone, for kings and for all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life.

Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13

The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones.

A Word from Pope Francis

Jesus assures us that we are always in time to put right with good the harm done. Those who have caused tears, make someone happy; those who have wrongfully taken, give to those who are in need. By doing so, we will be commended by the Lord.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Am I trustworthy with the authority and gifts I have received?
- Do I look more for my own progress and protection or that of others?

Do What You Say You're Going to Do

By Paige Byrne Shortal

There is a life lesson in today's Gospel: the person who can be trusted with minor matters, may be trusted with great matters. Likewise, if you can't manage the small stuff, then forget about dreaming big.

This may seem obvious, but we deny the obvious every day. For example, if we overspend our bank account, don't we imagine that having more money is the answer? For the very poor this may be true, but sometimes even those who are comfortable quickly spend their raise or bonus and before they know it, they're overdrawn. There are even winners of the lottery who, before they know it, find themselves with a negative bank balance. When it comes to money, no matter the amount, there are only three possibilities: spend what we have, spend more than we have, or spend less than we have.

Or think about folks whose houses are cluttered with too much stuff. Having a bigger house looks like the answer and yet it doesn't take long to fill up more closets.

We imagine that a "little lie" is okay. "Fibbing" we call it. Yet, fibbing here and cheating there and soon we're able to tell real whoppers without giving it much thought.

We imagine that "just a few" cookies while on our diet won't



Harmful habits usually start with small stuff and grow from there.

matter too much. Skipping our walk just for today can't hurt. Putting off until tomorrow the dishes—or our homework or writing a thank you note or returning a call—"just this once" doesn't matter. Missing Sunday Mass is OK if it's not every Sunday. Calling in sick when we need a break—well, everyone does it.

These are the habits of failure and

they all start with small stuff. When life seems to be in shambles or it feels like we are spiraling out of control, we might consider trying this: Let's do what we say we are going to do. Period. If we're not eating sweets, then don't eat them. If we're Catholic, we're obliged to go to Sunday Mass, so we go. If we own it and it's dirty, clean it. If we don't have the money, we don't buy it. If we said we'd meet someone at 3 PM, we don't show up at 3:10.

If we do what we say we're going to do, life becomes simpler, and we also feel better about how we are living it because we are keeping our word. We don't have to keep making the same decision over and over because that decision is already made. And we find ourselves becoming people who can be trusted with great matters. It starts with the small stuff. +



Faithful God, you keep your promises to us. Please give us the grace to keep our promises to you and to others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 19–24

Monday, Weekday:

Prv 3:27–34 / Lk 8:16–18

Tuesday, Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn,

Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions:

Prv 21:1–6, 10–13 / Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday, St. Matthew:

Eph 4:1–7, 11–13 / Mt 9:9–13

Thursday, Weekday:

Ecc 1:2–11 / Lk 9:7–9

Friday, St. Pius of Pietrelcina:

Ecc 3:1–11 / Lk 9:18–22

Saturday, Weekday:

Ecc 11:9–12:8 / Lk 9:43b–45

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