

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

September 18, 2016

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7

Psalms 113

I Timothy 2:1-7

Luke 16:1-13



The Dishonest Manager. *Object: A money bag like a business might use to take deposits to the bank.*

One day Susie's mother sent her to the store to buy a loaf of bread. She gave Susie two dollars and told her she could keep the change. When Susie paid for the bread, the cashier accidentally gave her too much money back. Susie knew right away that it was too much money. What should she do? Should she tell the cashier that she had made a mistake, or should she just keep quiet? What would you do?

James was going through the cafeteria line at school and looked down to see a dollar bill on the floor. There was no way of knowing who had lost the money, and no one would ever know if he just picked it up and put it in his pocket. What should he do? What would you do? Hector found a money bag like this one containing \$120 on top of a coke machine at his school. Wow! That is a lot of money. Just think of all of the things you could do with \$120! What should Hector do? What would you do?

Every day we are faced with decisions which test our honesty. It may be a small amount of incorrect change, a dollar found on the floor, or a large amount of money such as Hector found at school. The amount of money is not important, it is a question of doing what is right.

One day Jesus told a parable about a rich man who accused his manager of wasting his money. He called him in and told to give an account of the way he had been managing his money. Sure enough, he had been taking some of the money for himself and cheating his employer.

Since the manager knew he was going to be fired, he came up with a plan that would make a lot of friends. He called the people who owed his boss money and asked them how much they owed. When they told them how much they owed, he told them they only had to pay a much smaller amount. As you can imagine, the people were very pleased to only have to pay a fraction of what they owed. The manager now had plenty of friends to help him when he no longer had a job.

Jesus told this story to show that "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." If you and I make sure that we are honest in the small things, then we can be sure that we will be

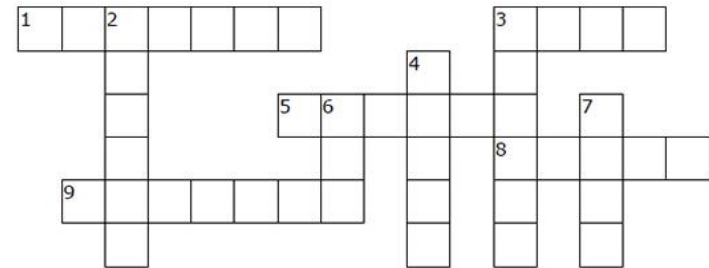
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; strive side by side for the faith of the gospel. Alleluia

honest in the big things. If people know that they can trust us in small things, they will know that they can trust us in the big things too.

Dear Father, help us to remember what Jesus taught about honesty -- and help us to be honest in every situation -- big or small. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

- Used by permission, sermons4kids

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- A person who performs duties around the home of a master
- To like something very much
- Truthful, trusted, not likely to steal, cheat or lie
- To have complete confidence in someone
- To feel a strong dislike for someone or something

DOWN

- A large amount of money or valuable possessions that someone has
- A very small amount
- The Son of God
- To be obligated to repay a debt to someone
- A very large amount

MUCH	OWE	LITTLE	SERVANT	DESPISE
LOVE	RICHES	HONEST	TRUST	JESUS

HONESTY DOOR KNOB HANGER: Give the child a foam door knob hanger to decorate with stickers and permanent markers with the word HONESTY, writing today's Bible verse on the door knob hanger as well!

BUMBLE "BEE" CRAFT: Have the child cut out a large yellow bumble BEE and attach black pipe cleaner for the antennae. Decorate the BEE and write on the BEE ---such "Bees" as BEE truthful; BEE honest; BEE faithful; BEE like Jesus; BEE trustworthy!



I WILL FOLLOW JESUS WHEN
I AM TEMPTED TO DO WRONG.

