

September 18, 2016 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Be trustworthy in small things!**

Amos 8:4-7

Psalm 113: 1-8

1 Timothy 2:1-8

Luke 16: 1-13



In the first reading Amos speaks to those who cause suffering on the poor and cheat them in order to profit financially. They fix scales and even mix refuse with the grain before the weighing. These type of deeds, he says, will never be forgotten by the Lord.

The psalmist is clear in saying that the Lord helps the troubled and is to be praised continuously. The lowly will be raised to even sit with the princes. The Lord is enthroned above all we can ever imagine and looks down upon earth as well as the heavens.

In the second reading Paul indicates that prayers for those in high places is pleasing to God who desires all men to be saved by the truth, namely, that God is one and Christ Jesus is mediator. Be blameless and offer such petitions free of anger and dissension so that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in dignity. Men should pray and lift up their holy hands without anger or argument.



In the Gospel Jesus tells a parable of the shrewd manager who knew how to minimize his losses. The world's goods are to be used wisely in helping others, and we are not to serve the interests of money matters, but rather serve those in need. Jesus notes that the children of the world are more prudent in certain dealings than the children of light.

**The Father raises up the lowly, and  
The Son sees injustices.  
The Holy Spirit aids the suffering and the poor.**

How many of us can say that we have really experienced what it is like to be poor? Perhaps some can but probably many more can say they have had the experience of being "ripped off" in some way. The many scams against the elderly are constantly being noted and those who are dishonest, especially to the needy, will experience harsh judgment, says Amos. On the other end of the spectrum are those in positions of power and authority for whom we should pray. Paul urges this kind of prayer in order that we may live in quiet dignity. God is the Lord of rich and poor alike, and all are called to be saved.

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