

25th Sunday – Ordinary Time – Year C

- I want to ask all the children here today a few questions
 - What would you do if – you're standing in lunch line at school and look down and you see a dollar? What would you do?
 - What would you do if you were walking home and you saw someone getting out of their car and a \$20 bill fell out of their pocket? They went into the house, and there it is.
- In today's Gospel JC says
If you can be trusted in little things, you can be trusted with big things AND
If you are dishonest with little things, you will be dishonest with big things.
 - Every day we are faced with decisions that test our honesty
 - It can be something small or big – whether its small or big is not important
 - What is important is whether or not we are honest

But there is something funny about today's Gospel -

JC tells a story about a dishonest steward who gets caught stealing from his master.

He is going to get fired – so, he calls everyone who owes his master money and reduces the debt

His master is going to lose even more money.

But he praises the steward because he uses his head to make friends that will help him when he's fired

Now JC isn't praising him for cheating his master.

He's praising him for using his head to plan for the future. For using the brains God gave him.

We are pretty smart people – we use our intelligence to plan and get what we want.

A story of Israeli tank commander on Syrian border. After a week on duty he asked for a weekend pass. The General laughed. If you want a weekend pass you have to capture a Syrian tank. So the Israeli soldier went off to patrol the border and a little while later a Syrian tank pulls up waving a white flag. The young Israeli soldier climbs out and the General says, "OK, you have the pass, but how did you do it?" "Simple," says the soldier, "I drove to the border in one of our tanks, and saw a Syrian soldier in his tank. I asked him if he wanted a weekend pass. He said, 'Sure', so we traded tanks."

We are pretty smart people – we use our intelligence to plan and get what we want.

JC tells us: You have the intelligence, use it.
 Use it to plan for your material needs
 Use it to fulfill the mission you have as my disciple

JC challenges us to be as eager and ingenious for the Kingdom of God as we are to secure our material happiness.

Some people, like 1st reading from AMOS have perfected how to outsmart others (for example, cheating scales).

That's not why gave us intelligence – He gave us intelligence to make His presence known to the world.

 The cleverness the steward used to save his skin

 The cleverness the tank commander used to get the weekend pass

 Is the same cleverness we can use to make God's ways known to the world

We call ourselves Christians – and we are.

Our lives should show ourselves to be honest in big things, and in small.

AND we should use all the intelligence God has given us to grow the Kingdom of God –

That all might come to know the saving power of God, in Jesus.