



*And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.*

Guy steals from you... you tell him to pack up his things, he's fired... he steals more from you... and you commend him for his prudence?

Jesus is pointing out a fact that is often all too evident in our lives. When we want to accomplish something in the world; when we want to get ahead (or in this case not fall behind) in wealth or prestige; we can be very good at applying all of our mental powers and all of our physical energy to accomplishing it. Even for the sake of vanity – we can think of the degrees to which people are willing to go in order to lose weight not really for the sake of health but just to conform to social norms.

The dishonest servant uses dishonest means, but that's not the point: He's clearly quite savvy, clearly quite intelligent. What if he had used those gifts for the master's good? What if we used our gifts, our energy, our ingenuity not for the things of this world but all for the Kingdom of God? What greater good would that bring about not only for the kingdom, but even for ourselves?

*And yet the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than the children of light;* and we can take on ridiculous diets but we have to go easy on the fasting – we can give tremendous gifts to win favor but we can only give so much to those in need – we can spend hours on a phone with someone or getting coffee with them or drinks – but we struggle to find time to pray.

May we take advantage of all the treasures the Lord has put at our disposal and prepare for ourselves a place in Heaven – not through dishonesty, not out of selfish gain; but through prayer and fasting and works of mercy and out of our love for God and his people.

In Christ, through Mary,

*Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP*