

Scripture Reflection for Living Faith

Friday, November 5, 2004

Thirty-First Week of Ordinary Time

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Phil. 3:17-4:1, Ps. 122:1-5, Lk. 16:21-8

“And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently.”

Lk. 14:26

When I was a student living on a shoestring, I paid many more fees than I have to pay now. An error in my checkbook log resulting in a couple bounced checks cost me an amazing amount in punitive fees. My professor's salary is not large, but sizeable enough that the bank gives me an automatic loan to cover any overdrafts. Granted, I have to pay it back with interest, but it's much less than the fees I paid as a student. The bank's argument is I'm less of a risk now. There's some truth to that, but underlying that justification is the fact that, as a culture, we are “more prudent in dealing with our own generation” and distrust those who are poor.

I listen to arguments in legislatures about aid for the poor, for children, immigrants, migrants, third-world nations. I try to listen with the ears of Jesus for the voices of the steward and master in today's story. I try to listen with the ears of Jesus for their voices in my own hesitation to trust and love the poor in my own community. I hear them more than I want to admit.