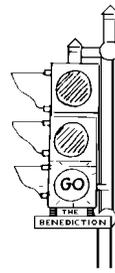


The Benediction

May 17, 2005



A Thief and His Friends (Romans 1:32)

"Well, I'm not a thief; and I think Joe is a good man. I didn't ask him where got the stereo. If it is stolen, and I'm not saying that it is, it is between Joe and his **god**. I simply made a deal for a good price. Certainly no man is perfect. But Joe has been a great help to us when there was no help from any other quarter. Now I can't tell you what to do. But it would be a great shame if by not dealing with Joe, he went out of business. Who would be our help then?"

The Story of America

Luke 16:1-13 (KJV) And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

(2) And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

(3) Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

(4) I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

(5) So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?

(6) And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

(7) Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

(8) And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

(9) And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

(10) He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

(11) If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

(12) And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

(13) No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

"Don't let this day go by without using your gift for somebody." (1 Corinthians 12)

Rev. MSGR. Russell L. Dillard of St. Augustine Catholic Church of Washington, DC at Cultural Mass at Sacred Heart Church of Lancaster, PA 05/21/94

The man who brags about how close he came to winning is a loser. (1 Corinthians 15:57-58 KJV) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. {58} Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

MONUMENTS (Genesis 11:3-4)

Some men built a monument of marble
on a mountain top
And went to the valley below
to survey what they had done
And it came upon them of a sudden
And crushed them

Marine Capt. Jim Warner while Vietnam Pow

The Library (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

This month our book club will be stopping in the prophetic section of the library in the book of Malachi. The meaning of the writer's name, Malachi, is "Messenger of Yahweh." Malachi is the last book in the prophecy section and is a prelude to four hundred years of prophetic silence, broken by John the Baptist. It is a fairly small book, containing only four chapters. Take your time reading and discussing it with a friend.

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