



Sunday 18th September 2022

My dear brothers and sisters, how are your families? As we say farewell to our beloved Queen Elizabeth II, I pray that this week brings us peace, good health and wisdom. Having pondered so much on today's gospel and parable, I must confess my dear brothers and sisters, that we have never given worldly goods the treatment they deserve. Or, rather, the use they deserve. With this in mind, let us reflect a bit on the subject titled:

"Dishonest wealth"

Jesus speaks of "dishonest wealth." His presupposition is that wealth is something that stands against the justice of God. But Jesus recognises that possessions are a normal part of life, and that some, whether by fair means or foul, will have more than others. As he often does, Jesus shifts the focus. Here, he shifts it from possession to use.

"Make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings" My dear Friends, wealth will go, Economies collapse, buildings crumble, clothes go out of fashion, we die. "A fool and his money are soon parted," say the proverbs. In fact, whether we be foolish or wise, sooner or later we and our wealth will be parted. We have no choice in that matter.

We do, however, have some choice in the way we and our possessions are separated. We can wait until they are taken, or we can share them with others, with "Christ at our doors" who are the "friends" who will give us an everlasting reception? In the parable of the dishonest manager, it is the debtors, those who need relief. In other words, it is the poor, if I wish to "buy" a place in "the eternal dwellings," I must, in a sense, bribe the reception committee, the poor.

I have possessions, they are "mine" only for the sake of aiding those in need. As my African Ancestors said more than 5000 years ago, "ulu ego bara bukwanu lhe eji ya meputa mobu ndi eji ya yere aka." It means, "Trustworthiness with riches means using them for those who need them and what they can do."

If I so use them, then the poor will stand at the gates of heaven and say as I approach, "Oh, it's you! Come on in - and thanks again" Does that mean that I should give up everything? Please use your common sense!!

In summary, my dear brothers and sisters, the dishonest manager in the parable gives a hint He makes an "investment" in hopes of reaping later benefits. Investing is a way to wealth in much of the world today. Ideally, an investment grows, leading to yet further investment, can I do that with my possessions, putting at least some of them forward for the needy will not be a bad idea! But don't forget to ask yourself, "How big an investment is enough? I am not likely to invest all that I have for the poor? The opposite is the danger; I might not invest enough to profit!

My dear brothers and sisters, thank you for listening and I pray that this week message enriches us with wisdom and peace. And May the intercession of our Blessed mother Mary accompany you and your families, both now and forever, Amen.

Yours Affectionately,
Father Nicholas Nwanzi.