

WHO ARE WE SERVING?

By Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Excerpts from Today's Gospel

"The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. ... No person can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." ... [Jesus said to the Pharisees,] "You justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts; for what is of human esteem is an abomination in the sight of God."

LUKE 16:10, 13, 15

Reflection

This is another one of those scripture passages that is challenging! Luke is warning against using wealth to gain friends and seek positions of power. The

direct message to each of us is, "Who are we serving – God or mammon(wealth/power/material possessions)?"

If we are stewarding our resources well, then we are using them to build up the Body of Christ – the Reign of God. It's not about what we can achieve or be recognized for; rather, it is about using our resources for the betterment of others and our world.

I chose the picture of the heart below because it speaks to whom we are serving – God or mammon. We can't serve both as much as we might like to do! Often the temptation is subtle, and we might slip into kidding ourselves about who we are really serving.

This is a call to each of us to cultivate integrity into our daily lives. Even the small things matter because if we hedge on the small stuff, then how can we be entrusted with the most important aspects of our stewardship? Being honest, kind, thoughtful, and trustworthy helps us to deepen our faith and strengthens our resolve to serve God and God only.

Cultivating a Servant's Heart

O God who created each one of us in God's image and likeness, instill in us one desire only – to serve you and all of your creation.

Soften my heart, O God, and allow the wind of the Holy Spirit to send me forth each day, willing to be your conduit of love, kindness, peace, and joy in this world.

Let my focus remain steadfast on You and Your desire for me this day. Help me see with your eyes, hear with your ears, and speak with your gentle, loving care.

Grant me the grace I need to till the soil of my servant heart. Let me remain open to your call and invitations in my life as I seek to serve you this day.



Image by Turgay Koca

For Pondering

- Choose one of the stanzas from the prayer "Cultivating a Servant's Heart" above. Which one speaks to you? Spend some time reflecting on why this might be so.
- Reflect on the choices you have made recently and assess if they align with serving God and not mammon. Give thanks for where you have generously served and pivot where you need to in order to stay focused on where God is calling you to serve.

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