

DAILY BREAD

FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 11, 2010

This week's assigned reading: Luke, chapters 15 and 16.

Comments on the assigned reading:

- Chapter 15 is composed of three parables. The Parable of the Lost Sheep is also found in Matthew 18:1-10, but the Parables of the Lost Coin and The Prodigal Son are unique to Luke. All three underscore the theme of a reversal of situation, for example, lost and found, death and new life, sorrow and joy.
- The Parable of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1-9) is one of the most difficult to interpret in the New Testament. Just because Jesus points to the dishonest manager to illustrate something about wealth and discipleship, that does not mean that Jesus is condoning dishonesty.
- The Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) is also unique to Luke's Gospel. Notice that Luke has a lot of material on money and wealth.

Questions for reflection and discussion:

1. After reading the three parables in Luke 15, what has been lost to you that you yearn to find? With whom in your life do you need reconciliation?
2. It is said that apart from teachings about faithfulness to God, Jesus taught more about money than any other subject (certainly more than sex). After reflecting on the parables about money and wealth in chapter 16, what are you learning about what a Christian's attitude and use of money should be?

Suggestions for prayer:

- Pray for Andrew Behrendt who is being ordained today as a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He has been called to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Waupaca, Wisconsin. Also include in your prayers Andy's wife Tracy as they establish their new life together in Waupaca.
- Pray for Galilee's Worship and Music Team which meets on Monday, July 12th. We are grateful for their good work in planning the worship and music for our Sunday services.
- Pray for Galilee's choir, which begins a new season with rehearsals starting on Wednesday. Blessings upon Jo Ann French who directs the choir, and every choir member who participates in this vital ministry.
- Pray for GLOW which starts up again this Wednesday, July 14th. We thank God for the wonderful volunteers who lead GLOW, and for the children and their families who participate in GLOW.
- Pray for Pastor Jennie Lightfoot, who is a member of the Ojibway Indian nation, and who is the mission developer of the One In The Spirit Ministries, an ELCA outreach to Native Americans in the East Metro Area of the Twin Cities. Galilee's contributions to the Saint Paul Area Synod of the ELCA supports this important ministry.

For the blog conversation on these readings, go to:

<http://web.me.com/ronald.peterson1/FAITHnrFUTURE/Blog/Blog.html>