

Welcome! Haere mai!

St John's Anglican Church, Ōtūmoetai



Sunday 18th September 2022
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends

Sunday's Gospel, in which Jesus tells the parable about a dishonest manager, is a challenge. Jesus said that the 'master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly...' These words are completely baffling. They don't seem to match the type of behaviour Jesus usually asks us to display. However, there is hope. The parables are often confusing. They turn conventional wisdom on its head and leave listeners perplexed. So, let's look at this one another way.

The manager forgives the clients' debts. That sounds familiar, doesn't it? Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. This parable is about forgiveness. If this still doesn't make sense perhaps we are stumbling over the nature of God who doesn't give easy answers. And why not? Because our lives don't have any easy answers.

Jesus doesn't tell simple stories because none of us live simple lives. Perhaps there are times we've been between a rock and a hard place, knowing that any decision we make will hurt someone. Perhaps we've been driven by circumstances to a place where compromising our integrity seems a way of getting us out of a mess.

Jesus knows that our lives are not straightforward and he also knows that we need guidance to live out our better selves. So, he gives us the gift of forgiveness. He offers his forgiveness openly, freely and without restraint. There is nothing we can ever do that will take God's love away from us. We will always be God's most cherished children, no matter how many mistakes we make or people we hurt.

We are forgiven because Jesus loved us even unto death. And knowing that forgiveness is ours every step of the way, how can we not want to try it out ourselves? 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us'. That's what happens in this parable. The dishonest manager is forgiven even as he forgives others. It's not neat and tidy and there are still loose ends and ethical questions and uncertainty.

Once again, Jesus knows that this is what our lives are like. We are not God and we cannot offer one another perfect love. We are human and we will always have mixed motives and mess things up, even when we're trying to do the right thing. There's a bit of the dishonest manager in all of us, trying to make our lives look good before each other and before the divine. Jesus tells us that he sees right through us and loves us dearly anyway. Loving not the ideal but the real is the challenge. Loving each other even when our frailties and failures are so apparent is the struggle. When we can't do it with the generosity and grace we aim for, the Good News is, we are forgiven.

Arohanui,

Sue (Vicar)

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY: 18th September 2022

Sentence

You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9

Collect

**God, our true wealth,
may we be faithful in things both small and great,
and serve the needy and the poor,
so that finally we can be entrusted with your true riches;
through Jesus Christ our Liberator,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

<u>1st Reading</u>	<i>Amos 8.4-7</i>
<u>2nd Reading</u>	<i>1 Timothy 2.1-7</i>
<u>Gospel</u>	<i>Luke 16.1-13</i>

Prayers of the People

Today we pray for the Anglican Chinese Mission and for the people of the Holy Trinity, Tauranga Parish and their clergy.

We pray for those in need, especially those who have asked for our prayers: Colin, Angela R.

Please remember Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am on Sunday 25th September and the clocks go forward one hour.

Help create a new *Recipe Book*

Our OASIS Op Shop team has suggested that we create a new* recipe book featuring favourite and well-tested recipes from our parish members, their family and friends. The new books will be for sale in the Op Shop. The categories for the book will be: Starters, Soups and Savouries; Main dishes; Desserts; Baking; Christmas Treats.

If you would like to contribute, please email a copy of one or two of your favourite recipes to Lynda so that she can put them together as a booklet. Please add your name if you wish. The recipes should not be direct copies from any other recipe book as this would be a breach of copyright. However, if you have a recipe from a book that you have changed or modified that would be fine.

Please send your contributions to Lynda (by email if possible) by 31st October, as we would like to have these recipe books available for sale by the end of November.

If you have any queries please talk to Sue (Vicar) or Lynda.

* Those of you who have been in the parish for some years may remember previous recipe books. We thought it was time for a new one and selling via the Op Shop seems a good approach.

This Week Beginning: 19th September

Tuesday	12.00 pm	Fish n Chips and Games
Wednesday	10.00 am	Mid-week Eucharist
	2.00 pm	SAYGo in the hall
Friday	9.00 am	Senior Chef
Op Shop	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Monday to Friday (ph. 576 2422)
	10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Saturday
Playgroup	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Toy Library	9.30 - 11.30 am	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Services for Sunday 25th September–

OT 26

8.30 am	Holy Eucharist
10.00 am	Holy Eucharist

Contact Us

Vicar:	The Reverend Sue Beverly	
Ph:	576 9923 or Vicarage 570 0424 or 021 432 365	
Email:	sue.beverly@waiapu.com	
Parish Office:	Lynda Wallace	
Ph:	576 9923	
Email:	admin.otumoetai@waiapu.com	
Website:	www.stjohns-tga.org.nz	
Wardens:	Bill Aldridge	021 982 984
	Roger Clark	027 683 8466