

Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

**For it is as if a man, going on a journey,  
summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;  
to one he gave five talents,  
to another two,  
and to another one, to each according to his ability.  
Then he went away.**

**After a long time the master of those slaves  
came and settled accounts with them.  
Then the one who had received the five talents came forward,  
bringing five more talents saying:  
“Master, you handed over to me five talents;  
see, I have made five more talents.”  
His master said to him:  
‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave;  
you have been trustworthy in small matters,  
I will give you great responsibilities!  
Come! share in the joy of your master.**

### **MEDITATION**

**When my children were teenagers and were yearning to establish their independence..  
I tried to impress upon them the importance...  
the extreme importance-- of being trustworthy.**

**I remember one New Year’s Eve when my oldest daughter, who was then a senior in high  
school told me she was going to spend the night at her best friend’s house.**

**Around 10pm her friend’s Dad called our house because he was told she was spending the  
night with us...mmmmm**

Now...I don't remember how I got the phone number of the home where the party was...it wasn't even at one of her friends...But I called there... got her on the phone, remember this is before everyone had a cell phone and told her, in no uncertain terms, to come home immediately... Well, suffice to say we had a long, late conversation that night about trust and being trustworthy...and it included that wisdom we all know to be true:

**Trust takes years to build,  
seconds to break  
and forever to repair.**

Our reading today isn't about the rich getting richer, which is how a lot of folks hear it when it is taken at face value. and it actually has several wisdom teachings...which is typical of Scripture. being trustworthy...

I wanted to reflect upon the value of being Trustworthy because... and I know this is a sweeping generalization... when you look at the news headlines... you ...I...have to ask myself the question: who is trustworthy? Where or to whom can we look for honest information so that we can have a well formed and well informed opinion? As I wandered down that train of thought a tandem question arose: Is being trustworthy even of value these days?

Some people like to blame the hippies in the 1960's for what they perceive as societies' decline.

“Never trust anyone over the age of 40” became a rallying cry for many of the social movements of the time and authority figures were looked upon with suspicion and distrust. I don't' think you can blame the hippies because they questioned people's integrity.

**If people were being hypocritical: claiming to be serving in the best interests of citizens or parishioners and then it was found out that they were just lining their own pockets or abusing their power...**

**it is not the fault of those who made known the discrepancies...**

**it was those in authority who caused their own fall from grace and power...**

**But since the 60's we have been more cynical and suspicious...**

**many folks question everything and everyone...**

**And these days with 'alternative facts', personal agendas and elite power struggles...**

**we who are not part of the governance of this country, often feel caught in**

**the midst of a murky soup of accusations, counter accusations and**

**intentionally ambiguous statements...**

**we feel frustrated, angered and often times just want to shut the whole world out...**

**Please hear me clearly:**

**I am NOT saying every government official or every church official is untrustworthy and corrupt...**

**My heart go out to those who are serving society with the deep desire to do what is right and good for us all...**

**it just seems to be getting harder and harder to do just that.**

**So what are we to do?**

**Well, first of all...Can we agree that to be considered trustworthy is valuable...**

**to say the least...?**

**Trust is the foundational element for healthy human development**

**and it is essential to the success of any relationship...**

**To be trustworthy is a mark of integrity and nobility.**

**and...it is also important to note that all of us**

**all of us...make a poor choice sometimes,**

a selfish choice at times  
less than smart choice at times ...  
Yet... as our faith teaches...  
when we have done something dishonest or wrong,  
we are to admit our wrong doing...  
apologize...  
fix it if possible...  
and then move on....

Most of us teach our children this pattern of correcting the mistakes we make...  
but it seems that many adults these days have forgotten the values  
of honesty and being trustworthy

So...It is time once again to raise up the values of integrity and trustworthiness  
as necessary for our sanity  
for the functioning of society,  
and for the advancement of human consciousness...

Again, this is not a call for moral perfection,  
but a call for the return of seeing honesty and humility as noble qualities...  
a call to re assert the values of integrity and respect  
as ESSENTIAL for the healthy growth of the human person.

It is a call to rise to our higher selves,  
our greater selves  
made in the image and likeness of the Holy One...

It is a call that we all can answer.  
and it does not depend upon our monetary worth,  
our social status,

or educational status...

where we live or where we shop.

It is a call to consider once again the deep ancient question of what does it mean to be human?

Some people have been taught they are worthless,

that it is a dog eat dog world out there...

that they are only worth as much as they have in the bank...

They have been taught that to be kind, compassionate and generous is fool hardy...

and that those with the biggest toys win...

and that we are essentially sinful, selfish creatures of habit...

Is that what we really believe???? Is that who we are as human beings?

Jesus doesn't think so and he didn't think God thought that way either

so he gave us a different measure for our worth...

He has showed us that those who love large...

are loved much larger in return...

Those who are willing to take the road less traveled of kindness and generosity

will find themselves held and empowered by the Divine Presence

that allows them to do be more and

to do more than often seems humanly possible.

Lets be honest...we really can't do much to change 'them'...

but we can do a lot to change ourselves....

Let us make a commitment to be women and men of honesty and integrity

men and women of compassion and kindness...

Let US commit to generosity and love beyond the borders of our own kin, tribe or nation...

Let us find the willingness to participate in the noble task of

making ourselves trustworthy..

and then...

**and then...we shall find ourselves in good company..**

**We will sleep well at night and approach the end of our life in peace...**

**and we will find a myriad of reasons to forever and always to say, thank you.**

**and oh...what happened with my daughter?**

**well...I honestly can't remember what were the consequences for her choices that night.**

**Now mind you, she just celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday...**

**But I called her the other day to see if I was remembering things correctly and she said:**

**Yeahhhh...that's the way it happened...**

**But Mom, she asked, how did you know where we were? I mean, the party was just at some random kid's house ...not one of my usual friends...**

**I don't remember honey, I replied...but for me it's evidence for the Presence of the Holy Mystery! amen**