

Worship on September 18, 2022 (CCLI: License Number #3156883)
(Welcoming Elder: Trevor Preston)

Sunday Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 349 My hope is built on nothing less
- Words of Assurance
- Time for our children and youth
- Praise song – BOP 648 I'm gonna live so God can use me

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Luke 16:1-13
- Sermon: Trust and trusted
- Prayer for the people of God

We Respond

- Offering & Dedication
- Song for the Journey – BOP 332 O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder

We Serve

- Benediction

Announcements:

. Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us today. This is Sunday, September 18th. Jehovah Jireh. God prepares. God provides all our needs. As we worship God today, may God's abundant and generous grace and love and peace and support be experienced.

. Let us continue to remember the Queen Elizabeth II and pray for God's blessing upon the Royal Family and the Commonwealth including Canada.

. Bible Study (Christ-Centred Life) is on Wednesdays morning 10am to 11:15am. All are welcome. Spread the word. It will be the time of connecting each other and praying for each other.

. Prayer is unseen, yet powerful. If you have prayer needs, please let us know.

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As we come into the presence of our God, let us open our hearts and minds,
and focus on our Lord and King.

Responsive Call to Worship

Praise the name of the LORD. / **Blessed be the name of the LORD!**

From the rising of the sun to its setting, praise the name of the LORD.

We will bless God's holy name now and evermore.

The glory of the Lord is high above the heavens, but God raises up the poor and needy on the earth.

So we will sing God's praise. Let us worship God.

Praise song – BOP 349 My hope is built on nothing less

<u>Vs. 1</u> My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name	Vs. 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil
<u>Vs. 3</u> His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, he then is all hope and stay	Vs. 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, o may I then in him be found; dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne
<u>Chorus</u> On Christ, the solid rock, I stand All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand	

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

God our Creator, You sustain your creation as the source of life for every precious thing. You have given us more than we could ever earn or deserve, and so we offer you our love and loyalty, for without you, we would not be. Receive our worship this day, O God. Speak to us in the sounds and silence of this hour, and amaze us with your promise of new life revealed in Jesus Christ, and your power at work in us and among us through your Holy Spirit.

Generous God, You have enriched us with life worth living, but we confess we often squander your good gifts. We have wasted our time and energy, but held tightly to things we think we need. Forgive our foolish priorities and those times we overlooked the needs of others. Inspire us to live more generously, trusting your goodness to sustain us always.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ, while it is true that we have squandered God's good gifts, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. Trust the mercy of God, and be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

May the peace of the Lord be with you. Let us take few moments to greet each other and share our peace.

Prayer for children and youth and prayer (Presentation of the Bible)

Jehovah Jireh. God prepares. God provides. We trust you in your love and grace you're your will pour out our needs abundantly. Father God, we are offering up our children and youth into your hands. Teach them your truth. Show them that you are the only way to life. Establish the personal and intimate relationship with them. Help them open their hearts to you and live with you. Hold their hands and guide their steps. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

Praise Song: BOP 648 I'm gonna live so God can use me

<u>Vs. 1</u> I'm gonna live so God can use me Anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna live so God can use me Anywhere, Lord, anytime!	<u>Vs. 2</u> I'm gonna work so God can use me Anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna work so God can use me Anywhere, Lord, anytime!
<u>Vs. 3</u> I'm gonna pray so God can use me Anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna pray so God can use me Anywhere, Lord, anytime!	<u>Vs. 4</u> I'm gonna sing so God can use me Anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna sing so God can use me Anywhere, Lord, anytime!

Prayer for Illumination:

Lord, send us your Holy Spirit to give us a fresh understanding of the Scriptures this day. Challenge us and change our lives as we encounter your wisdom and truth, through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 16:1-13

1 Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' 3 Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5 So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6 He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' 7 Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes. 10 "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."

SERMON: Trust and trusted

Today's sermon title is **"Trust and trusted."**

When we meet friends, sometimes, we want to treat them. Sometimes, at the same time, they want to treat us. Then, when we have to pay, we **push our means of payment to the server** or to the owner. It happened few days ago. My friend had credit card, and I had cash. If you were the server of our table, or the owner of the restaurant, what would you take? It was a small

restaurant and it was the owner. He took my cash. Some people say that they only trust CASH, not even credit card.

Today's passage is about money. **MONEY** is one of the things we love the most. Sometimes, money is everything for some people. This person in our passage today could be one of them. This person is hired to manage money. He could be a financial manager or a bookkeeper of a company.

One of my friends works in government office, like Service Ontario. Sometimes, by mistake, they have some leftover money at the end of the day. It's either the customers pay few extra dollars or did not get change. Not intended, but things happen by mistake.

This money is not belong to anywhere. If he takes the money, no one will know and he won't be charged for anything. It's like a blinded money. Free money.

He told me that he could have taken the money and enjoyed it, but he was not able to.

"It's not mine," he said. Although it's totally fine to take it, he could not. Why?

Because if he takes it once, then he would want it more. He was sure that he would look for some opportunities to make free money. It's like the seed of his fleshly desire.

Thankfully, he did not plant the seed of his fleshly desire. **He kept his heart.**

Money is not simple object. We invent the concept of money and put value in it. We put life in it. Money controls hearts. Money has power to change people's minds and deeds and eventually lives.

The manager from today's passage **overwhelmed by his greed**. He was taking advantage of his position by running up huge personal expenses. Wrong. If we do that now, we would have to go to jail. But, the owner called him and gave him the notice. **"You are fired."** And the owner requested the complete accounting history.

The manager is in panic. He lost his job just now. But, the owner gave him some time to wrap up his work. So, he called in the debtors. In order to prepare his future after losing his job, he reduced the debts. He thought the debtors would welcome him if he reduces the amount. So illegal. If we do that now because it's in the Bible, we will be arrested.

It is wrong now and it was wrong then.

But, the owner came to the manager and praised him for his shrewd crime. The MSG states, **"The master praised the crooked manager! And why? Because he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise people are smarter in this regard than law-abiding citizens."**

MSG continues. **They are on constant alert, looking for angles, surviving by their wits. I want you to be smart in the same way – but for what is right – using every adversity to stimulate you to creative survival, to concentrate your attention on the bare essentials, so you'll live, really live, and not complacently just get by on good behaviour."**

That was the end of the parable of Jesus.

WHAT IS THE LESSON FROM THIS??

There seems to be no lesson. Moreover, Jesus says something even more confusing. **V9, "And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes."**

Jesus continues. **10 "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If then you have not been faithful**

with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

If we just look at this interpretation part of the parable, it's not that difficult to understand.

The focus of the parable and interpretation is **the choice between God and money.**

If we go back to v8, when the master commended the dishonest manager, the reason was his **shrewd decision making** to prepare his future. MSG states, **he knew how to look after himself. Streetwise. Smart.**

WHY NOT WISE?

WISE contains the value of just and righteousness. On the other hand, SHREWD is about making sharp decision in a given circumstance in order to make profit.

This manager is shrewd, knew how to look after himself, streetwise and smart, not wise.

The Bible does not give any detail about the owner, the rich man. Learning the reason why the rich man praised the dishonest manager, we can say that he is the same kind of person as the manager, not wise, but streetwise and shrewd. Moreover, **after praising the dishonest manager, nothing happened. The manager trusted money, and credited by his smart decision, but nothing was secured.**

Back to v9, when Jesus says “**make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.**”

What is the eternal homes? Is he referring the Kingdom of God? Heaven? It seems to me that it's more likely personally built future security which individuals have the control of. It's like personal security back up plan.

Shrewd. Looking after oneself. Streetwise. Smart. – great things.
But, the ultimate goal of these is personal and selfish profit.

Let's go back to v10-13.

10 “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much.

11 If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? Shrewd decision might be able to get praise, but it cannot buy people's trust.

12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own?

13 No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

This manager, what are the two things he was supposed to serve?

Faithfulness to the trust of the owner and his own selfish desire.

The owner or himself

If we bring this question to our lives, what are the two masters we are serving?
Simple. Myself and God. Money or God. No one is free from this question.

“God is big and I am small” – I don’t know why, but I am coming back to this theme these days. Do we have the faith of God is Big and I am small?

I titled today’s message **“Trust and Trusted”**

What do we trust? Which master do we trust? GOD? OR MONEY? OR MYSELF?
And **from whom do we want to be trusted?**

With dishonest money, we can make friends, but what are we going to get in the end?

Let us put our trust in God, our true Master. And let us long to be trusted by God alone.

This is the message of the Lord for us today.

Prayer for the people of God

God of love and grace, we are facing struggles every day. We are too comfortable making decisions with the measure of our profit. You are the Lord and you are the Master of our lives, but we are many many times. We know you are king, but we are king in our reality.

We know that you are the only one we can trust, but we trust ourselves all the time. We trust what we can see and what we can touch. We are short sighted. Lord, help us. Shine your light upon us and give us faith to trust you alone.

Merciful God, we cause troubles. Our selfishness, our greed, our sinful nature do not leave us alone. We fall, we make mistakes, and we hurt others. Gracious God, we come to you with our brokenness, with the brokenness of this world. Remember us and change us.

We pray for the police officers who lost their lives this week. There was a shooting out of the blue. And there was an impaired driving. Have mercy upon this generation. Help us give our hearts to you. Help us take care of our inner beings. Help us know that you are the only hope. There is nothing that gives us peace and true comfort. Gracious Father God, comfort the families and police officers. Encourage them and provide them safety and confidence. Help them as they carry on their responsibilities to protect our lives.

We also pray for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Be with all the people who are preparing it. Lord, protect the new leaders and teach them your heart. Nothing lasts forever, but you. Let the Royal family come before your feet and worship you and serve their office with your wisdom only.

We pray for our church. We pray for the ones who are struggling with their physical pains and illnesses. Jehovah Rapha. You are the Healer. Lord God, heal them. Provide them the best medical support and give them peace in their hearts. Encourage them and their family. Strengthen them so they may stand strong in your presence when they are the weakest. Display your greatness through them.

Also, we pray for our worship. Let this time worship become the focus of our week. Let your presence and your glory become our power and reason to live. There are people who are serving your church. Help them and fill their hearts with your love and energy.

Let our lives become the worship for you. Be glorified through our lives. In Jesus’ precious and powerful and beautiful name, we pray Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. Thank you for your continuing support with your gifts. May God use them and use our lives for his glory. Let us pray for our offering.

Offering prayer:

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in gratitude for all you give us. Bless them and make them a source of healing for a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

Song for the Journey BOP 332 O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder

<u>Vs. 1</u> O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder consider all the worlds thy hands have made I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, thy power throughout the universe displayed	<u>Chorus</u> Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings m soul, my Saviour God, to thee, How great thou art! How great thou art!
<u>Vs. 2</u> When through the woods and forest glades I wander and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees, when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze,	<u>Vs. 3</u> And when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, he bled and died to take away my sin,
<u>Vs. 4</u> When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!	

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. Trust God alone. He is the only one who can secure our lives. Give your hearts to God alone, not to our own interests or to money. They are not the reliable. Build your life on solid Rock.

Benediction: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.