

From the Desk of Our Pastor

Step Fully into the Light



In Tuesday's gospel reading this week, Peter asks Jesus how many times one should forgive another. Jesus then gives us a rich and deep parable about the unforgiving debtor. The man's debt was astronomical: ten thousand talents – a talent being 15 years wages for a common laborer! I wonder to myself how anyone could get into such deep debt. What is even more striking to me is that the man probably was not conscious of his situation. No doubt he began early on in his career misappropriating the king's funds, a little here and a little there, until after a while he thought nothing of it. Perhaps it was a general sloppiness with the King's business and property. Whatever, at some point, he must have lost all inhibitions in borrowing and stealing until the moment of reckoning.

We need to see ourselves as the debtor in this parable. We are this man! Like the king, God owns everything, and we often forgot this. How often do we misappropriate God's riches in our spending? And what of the sloppy way we treat God's gifts, neglecting our responsibilities? We squander "our" time without a thought, and time is of prime value. We injure people with our words, and our thought life is out of control. All along the way, debt builds and builds, and we are oblivious to it. Being unaware of these debts has us living in darkness rather than light.

This weekend's Gospel reading brings us to our verdict. "The light came into the world, but people prefer darkness to the light." Dear brothers and sisters, is there any chance we prefer darkness? I think if we are honest, we are the great debtor, and if we do not feel it, we too are in the darkness. This week I challenge you to think about how you can step FULLY into the light. We can only step out of the darkness if we have a sense we are in the dark about ourselves. As a Lenten discipline, do an examination asking God to illuminate your great debt. I will do the same.

God Bless You.

Father John Worgul
Pastor