

Romans 15: 14-21

Luke 15: 1-10

“The master praised the dishonest servant for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.” This is what Jesus says to his disciples following his parable about the unjust steward. He is telling them, and us, that, whereas so many people in the world seek to be wise in the ways of the world as to gain personal fame and fortune, the people of God seek to be wise in the ways of God. Are we chasing only worldly success, or do we strive for an eternal reward?

Paul is expressing a similar theme to the Roman listeners. He affirms the fact that they are already, “Perfectly instructed and able to advise each other.” But, as a Priest of Jesus Christ, he now has the duty of telling them that they must also pass on the ‘Good News’ to the pagans to, “Make them acceptable as an offering, made holy by the Holy Spirit.” He then uses the example of his life lived in the service of Christ, and his wisdom gained in doing so, as a motivation for them to do the same. His chief concern being to fulfil the text, “Those who have never heard about him (Jesus) will understand.”

This is our mission too. We are to seek wisdom in the ways of grace. It may not bring us the riches and esteem that are offered in this life, but it will gain us the rewards of eternal life.