

Philippians 3:17 - 4::1

Luke 16:1-8

I think that the message we hear from Paul, in this part of his letter to the Philippians, reflects our need to gather together as 'Church'. He says, "My Brothers, be united in following my rule of life. Take as your models everybody who is already doing this and study them as you used to study us." He then goes on to caution about the influence of many who are opposed to the Christian way of life. Paul recognises that we need to come together and to persevere as a community so that: We can learn from one another and that, Through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, we might be transfigured into copies of his glorious body.

The responsorial psalm brings the Reading and Gospel together..."Jerusalem (God's community of love) is built as a city strongly compact. It is there that the tribes go up. The tribes of the Lord."

In the Gospel Jesus tells the parable of the astute servant. This man, for whatever reason, has failed in his duty and is about to be sacked. The steward knows that he will be destitute. So, he calls together his master's debtors and releases them from part of their debt. (This was probably the extra interest often unlawfully added!) The Master is impressed by his astuteness and relents. Jesus sums up by saying, "The children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light." In other words, those who profess to know and follow God's law, should be equally astute in taking away the added burdens of the poor and afflicted and, in so doing, gain 'their' reward.