

Ordinary 25C – 2022

Waddling ducks:

Søren Kierkegaard, the Danish philosopher, once told a story about a make-believe country where only ducks lived. On Sunday morning all the ducks came into Church, waddled down the aisle, waddled into their pews and squatted. Then the duck minister came in, took his place behind the pulpit, opened the Duck Bible and read, "Ducks! You have wings, and with wings you can fly like eagles. You can soar into the skies! Ducks! You have wings!" All the ducks yelled, "Amen!" and then they all waddled home. No one flew or even tried. [Jim Burns, *Radically Committed* (Dallas: Word Publishing, 1991).] — Friends, there's just too much truth to that little fable. Using the parable of a rascal manager in today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to see that it is time for the *children of light* to quit waddling. It's time for us to soar by using wisely our God-given talents and blessings for the welfare of others, thus glorifying God and becoming eligible for our eternal reward. May we be the people that Jesus praises because we, too, saw something that needed to be done and we did it. <https://frtonyshomilies.com/>

What impressed you most about United States? "Your garbage cans."

A famous economics professor from a great University in Europe was travelling through the United States. He visited many of the great buildings and institutions, the skyscrapers of the big cities, stadiums and hospitals. When he was about to return to Europe someone asked him: "What impressed you most about the United States?" Without a moment's hesitation he replied: "Your garbage cans." "Garbage cans?" echoed the interviewer, "what is so impressive about the garbage cans?" The professor explained: "Your garbage cans are loaded with wasted food. You Americans waste more food in a week than it would take to feed the children of one European country for a whole month." — Why did the steward in today's gospel lose his job? Because "he was wasting his master's goods." Every one of us is a steward. We are in charge of goods, talents, even people. All these things and persons belong to God. When we waste them, we are committing a sin of injustice and dishonesty. (Msgr. Arthur Tonne). <https://frtonyshomilies.com/>

"Four and take two, myself."

A businessman who heads his own company interviewed three applicants for a job. As a test, he asks: "If you divide six by two, what's the result?" "Three," answered the first applicant. He was not hired for being too honest. "Two," answered the second applicant. Again, he was not hired because he was dishonest and for being

an ignorant fool. This third applicant answered, "Sir, if I were to divide six between you and me, I would rather give you four and take two, myself." He was hired for being clever.

Shrewd deposit of casino winnings:

An elderly lady reported winnings of \$6500 from the Tunica casinos last year. She claimed a charitable deduction for half of her winnings—\$3250—which she gave to her Church. No, she did not tell her pastor where that contribution came from. Some of her friends asked her why she gave 50 percent to the Church rather than the customary 10 percent tithe which the Bible commends. She replied, "If God was good enough to let me win \$6500, He ought to get half of it." This lady reminds me of the dishonest steward of long ago. — We aren't supposed to approve of the way they got their money; but we have to admire the shrewd and farsighted way in which they planned for the future. Even a crook can teach us something. <https://frtonyshomilies.com/>

The story is told of the man whose son complained about the terrible circumstances he was facing. The boy said he didn't know how to cope with the **adversity of his life**.

The father took his son into the kitchen and had him put water in three pots. He had the boy put a carrot in one, an egg in another, and coffee beans in the third. Then they put the pots on the stove, turned on the heat until the water boiled for several minutes in each pot. They then turned off the burners and, using a pair of kitchen tongs, removed the carrot and the egg from their pots, and poured the contents of the third through a strainer into a cup. The dad asked the boy what happened to each. In the first pot, the carrot had become soft; in the second, the egg had become hard, and in the third, the water had changed to coffee.

"The lesson," said the father, "is this: adversity can make you soft by weakening your resolve and sapping your strength; or adversity can make you hard, by making you bitter or mean; or you can change the water of adversity into the coffee of opportunity."