

The Junior Observer

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Q&A

Why did the steward lose his job?

What were the debts owed to the rich man?

Read more about it in Luke 16

A Good News Story

Jesus Tells of Unjust Steward

Catholic News Service

One day, Jesus told His followers a parable about a rich man and the steward who oversaw his estate.

The rich man found out that the steward was dishonest and had squandered his property.

“Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward,” the rich man angrily told the steward.

“What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me?” the steward wondered. “I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg.”

He quickly came up with an idea. It was a common practice for a steward to charge his master’s debtors more than what was owed and keep the extra for himself. So he decided to gain favor with the rich man’s debtors by charging only what they actually owed. In return, the debtors would welcome him into their homes after he lost his job.

The steward called in the rich man’s



Bible Trivia

Jesus said it is easier for what to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God? (Hint: Matthew 19:24)

Answer: A camel

debtors one by one.

“How much do you owe my master?” he asked one debtor.

“One hundred measures of olive oil,” the man replied.

“Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for 50,” the steward said.

Another debtor owed the rich man

100 kors of wheat, but the steward told him to write a promissory note for 80.

When the rich man heard of this, he couldn’t help but praise the steward’s prudent actions.

Although Jesus did not want His followers imitating the steward’s dishonesty, He did want them to learn a lesson in the prudent use of worldly wealth.

“The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones,” Jesus said. “If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours?”

Jesus said that a servant cannot serve two masters.

“He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon,” He said about earthly riches.

October is the Month of the Rosary

Join Bishop Malloy in Praying the Rosary

October has been celebrated as the Month of the Rosary in honor of Mary for many years. Now it is also Respect Life Month.

Saying a decade of the rosary with your family after school or in the evening this month is a way you can honor the Blessed Mother and pray that God will protect all of His children, born and unborn.



(Observer photo by Sharon Boehlefeld) Bishop David Malloy prays the rosary.

Bishop David Malloy of the Rockford Diocese has recorded each decade. To say the rosary with him, ask an adult to help you go to

the website <http://observer.rockforddiocese.org/decade-a-day>. There you can click on the name of the mystery to pray it with the bishop.

There are English and Spanish versions of the rosary with the bishop.

Introducing the Rosary Relay

This year we have a new family rosary project, too. This one is based on an idea from Elizabeth Heitkamp, assistant superintendent of

diocesan Catholic schools.

At several schools in the diocese, large rosaries are displayed in classrooms or hallways so anyone can say a prayer or two when passing by.

You can pray your own Rosary Relay at home.

Ask an adult in your family to help you print a copy of a rosary (above right) on the decade-a-day rosary page online.

Print one and color the beads and cross. Post it somewhere in your home where everyone will pass by it.

If you post your colored rosary on a magnetic surface, you can move a magnet around the rosary as family members stop to say a prayer or two.

If you post it on another surface, one way to mark a completed bead would be to color a mark or symbol — maybe a small cross — next to it.

If yours is a “crafty” family, you’ll probably



(Image provided)

Decorate a larger copy of this rosary, post it in your home and mark each bead as you finish it.

come up with better ways to decorate and mark your rosary page.

As with any relay, it takes teamwork — the whole family — to “win the race.”

When you’ve finished one full rosary, you can start around again on the same decorated paper. Or you can print another one and start from scratch.

How to pray the rosary

Most of the prayers are ones you already know, so the instructions will be easy to follow.

A decade is one Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, a Glory Be and the Fatima prayer.

Four groups of five mysteries are the basis of the rosary. Each mystery tells of an important story in Jesus’s life.

October starts on a Tuesday this year, so you may start with the Sorrowful Mystery, the Scourging at the Pillar and follow the chart from there, continuing to say a decade each weekday through the month. (Find the chart at the same website as the prayers with the bishop.)

Think about each mystery as you pray it.

When you finish one rosary, start over.

Choose to pray with Bishop Malloy or have a Rosary Relay — or do both — at your house. Either one will start you on your way to a new prayer habit.