

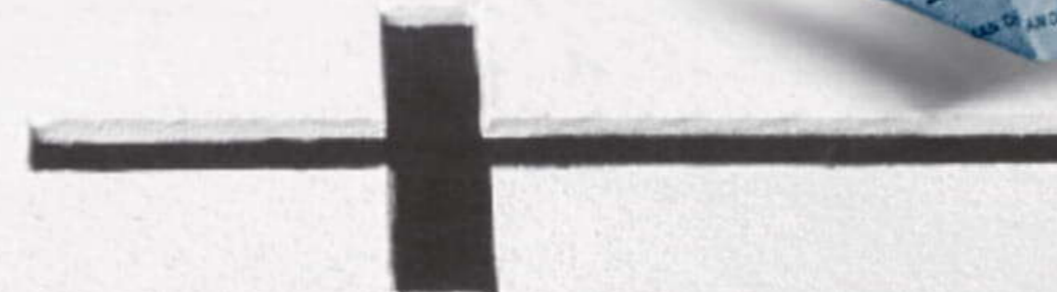
# Newtbec

NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

MONTHLY FOCUS:  
MALAYSIA DAY (16TH SEPTEMBER)



## YOU CANNOT SERVE BOTH GOD AND MONEY

There is so much said about money in the Bible. For instance, *'whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied'* (Ecclesiastes 5:10). The crux of this week's powerful message bites us hard as it reflects all that tempts at us, drawing us away from the faith.

### SCRIPTURE QUOTE TO MEMORISE:

...so, like good stewards responsible for all these varied graces of God, put it at the service of others.

(1 Peter 4: 10-11)

"No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other". We know also that *"wealth is not inherently evil, but the love of money can lead to all sorts of sin"*. (1 Timothy 6:10). And what was the Pharisees' motivation in the time of Jesus? They were those who were "lovers of money" and who "justify themselves before men" and who exalted that which was an 'abomination before God'.

Jesus is not saying that believers should gain wealth unrighteously and then be generous with it. The principle that Jesus is trying to convey is for us to be just stewards of procuring and using wealth. The unjust steward saw his master's resources as a means for his own personal enjoyment and advancement. Conversely, Jesus wants His followers to be just, righteous stewards. If we understand the principle that **everything we own is a gift from God**, then we realize that God is the owner of everything and that we are His stewards. As such, we are to use the Master's resources to further the Master's goals. We are to be generous with our wealth and use it also for the benefit of others.

If we can't be faithful with earthly wealth, which isn't even ours to begin with, then how can we be entrusted with "true riches"? The "true riches" refers to stewardship and responsibility in God's Kingdom along with all the accompanying Heavenly rewards. If God is our Master, then our wealth will be at His disposal. The faithful and just steward whose Master is God will employ that wealth in building up the kingdom of God. So while we can enjoy all what we work for, let us be mindful that we are called to share to build God's Kingdom on earth, with our gifts and resources. God loves a cheerful silent giver; so when we have more, let us learn to give more. **Remember, you cannot serve both God and money.** ✦

### SCRIPTURE of the DAY

Amos 8: 4-7;

Psalms 112:1-2, 4-8;

1 Timothy 2: 1-8;

Luke 16: 1-13 (or 10-13).