

We Are God's Stewards!

The prophets of the Old Testament were messengers of God, called at different times to call people back to God, warn them of God's justice, and preach against social injustice existing during their time. The 16 books of the Old Testament define different ministries the prophets shared with their people throughout history. Of these prophets, Prophet Amos is well-known as the prophet of social justice. He preached against social ills existing among his people, especially how the rich took advantage of the poor, as we read in today's first reading (Amos 8: 4-7). He warned them, *"Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land... The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Never will I forget a thing they have done!"*

In our first reading, the rich, prophet Amos condemned was not because of their wealth but because of how they used it. They became enslaved by material pride and used their riches to trample upon the poor and the weak. They forgot that whatever they had was a gift from God, and God called on them to make good use of them. As a result, they were not good stewards of God's blessing. Based on this backdrop of the first reading, Jesus invites us in today's Gospel (Luke 16: 10-13) to be trustworthy stewards of God's gifts by being servants who use well the gifts we have received.

We need to remember always that the gifts we have received make us gifts to others. Once we are gifted, we become gifts to others. We are stewards of God's blessings. We are stewards of the time, talent, and treasure God has given us. If we believe that whatever we have has been given to us, then we must remember that whatever we make out these gifts in service to one another is the gift we give back to God. It remains our choice on how we use God's given gifts. It is an invitation to be good stewards of God's blessings, asking God for the wisdom to use our wealth to his greater glory. Amen!

Blessed Cyprain Iwene Tansi- Pray for us!