

The Old Testament: Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.
mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.
- *The Word of the Lord*

The Epistle: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions,
and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who
are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable
life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in
the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved
and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
who gave himself a ransom for all

-- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a
herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a
teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. - *The Word of the Lord*

The Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a
manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was
squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him,
'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of
your management, because you cannot be my manager any
longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now
that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not
strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided
what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people
may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's
debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe
my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said
to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then
he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A
hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and
make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest man-
ager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age
are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are
the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by
means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may wel-
come you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and
whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If
then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who
will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faith-
ful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your
own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate
the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise
the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."