

2. Lessons from Timothy: Appointed a Herald

For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle.... 1 Timothy 2.7

We have two seemingly disparate texts this morning! In 1 Timothy the Apostle Paul affirms life in Christ to be _____, and speaks of his call to be a herald and apostle to that life. In our text in Luke Jesus applauds the shrewdness of an evil man, and even encourages us to follow his example.

Jesus categorizes wealth as an inherently seductive _____.

This is Jesus' antidote to the seduction of wealth: use our wealth for _____, most particularly, the good of others less fortunate.

The dishonest manager, as a worldly wise man, used **what he knew** to deal with the threat that was hovering over him. As disciples of Jesus, we too are to use **what we know** to deal with whatever threat hovers over us. What do we know when we are faced with threats? We know we can _____ our Father in heaven Who is with us unlike the dishonest manager who had to take care of himself....

Paul instructs Timothy to pray for government authorities so that the disciples of Jesus may live life in all godliness and dignity. The dishonest manager in our parable lived an ungodly life, we are called to live a godly life; _____ is the connection between these seemingly disparate texts.

The _____ of the believer is to be one of utmost respect and concern for government authorities, even those who deny or even reject our faith. For the ultimate ethos for the Church is the ethos of love.

Faith and truth are two cardinal doctrines of the Church and fundamental to a godly life. Life in Christ is **grounded in truth** and _____ **by faith!**

I learned some powerful lessons: no matter how unloving I may be, the steadfast love of God in Christ cannot be shaken. Even more, nothing in life, not my past, not my circumstance, not people in my life, not even my own emotions, need reign over me, for by the power of the Holy Spirit I _____ *in life with Christ (Romans 5.17)*.

Life in Christ is grounded in truth and lived by faith. Like the dishonest manager, we are to use **what we know** to live, like the Apostle Paul, the godly _____. For God will sustain us and bring us through according to His purpose! What is the godly life?

Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey!