



**DAILY BREAD  
LECTIONARY DEVOTIONS  
PENTECOST 18—YEAR C**

**INVOCATION**

L: In the name of the Father  
and of the Son +  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**G: Amen**

**PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 38**

**A: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

L: O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger

**G: or discipline me in your wrath.**

L: For your arrows have pierced me,

**G: and your hand has come down upon me.**

L: My guilt has overwhelmed me

**G: like a burden too heavy to bear.**

L: All my longings lie open before you, O LORD;

**G: my sighing is not hidden from you.**

L: I wait for you, O LORD;

**G: you will answer, O Lord my God.**

L: Come quickly to help me,

**G: O Lord my Savior.**

**A: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**READING & MEDITATION** *see next page*

**PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**A: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**A: My grace is sufficient for you, for my  
power is made perfect in weakness.  
(2 Corinthians 12:9a)**

**BENEDICTION**

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**A: Amen**

## READING AND MEDITATION:

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost:** The believer has a right relationship with worldly wealth. Faithful service to the Master is marked by faithful use of the Master's possessions.

**As you study this week, seek to find the connecting theme in all the lessons by using Luther's Four Big Barber Questions to ponder and discuss each individual reading:**

1. *What is God saying to me in this lesson?*
2. *For what does this lesson lead me to give thanks?*
3. *What sins does this lesson lead me to confess?*
4. *For what does this lesson lead me to pray?*

## THE GOSPEL: LUKE 16:1-13

The Parable of the Shrewd Manager has caused some consternation among New Testament believers. Was the manager dishonest or was he merely taking advantage of his master's manipulation of the law of Moses? If he was dishonest, how can the Lord hold up sin as an example for faithful living? Do not miss the point. This is a "fish or cut bait" lesson being taught by the Great Teacher. Love for money or love for God are the options. Each brings with it eternal results. Those who love money will not be trusted with greater treasure. Those who love the Lord and faithfully use his possessions for kingdom work will be trusted with the eternal treasure of heaven.

*My takeaways:*

## FIRST LESSON: AMOS 8:4-7

The poor and needy are neglected and trampled by those itching to make money on their misfortune. The Lord does not condemn those who follow wise business practices to honestly make the most of their situation. Rather, he condemns dishonesty in business dealings, specifically as a sign of the self-serving, luxury loving attitude that rules the heart of the greedy. The LORD will not forget what they have done. He will bring them to justice on the Day of Judgment.

*My takeaways:*

## SECOND LESSON: 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8

Focus shifts from payment received to payment made. It is Jesus who used his own blood to buy back and set free all of humankind from the shackles of sin. One might describe this redemptive work as making the best use of available resources! The proclamation of this best business practice is the reason we exist. Therefore we pray for peace in our world. Not for booming economies, this prayer begs that nothing would hinder us from proclaiming the gospel of eternal peace through Jesus.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 14:8-24

Abram comes to the rescue of his nephew Lot from the hands of Kedorlaomer and the Eastern Kings. After receiving bread and wine from Salem's Priest-King Melchizedek, Abram credits the Lord with victory by making an offering of a tenth of the spoils. At the same time Abram declines the offer from the King of Sodom to keep all the remaining possessions. Is it not God who gives us the ability to make money and possess the things of this world? Does he not bless our efforts and prosper his people? These are resources to be used to give glory to his name and used for the accomplishment of his kingdom work.

*My takeaways:*

## SUPPLEMENTAL SECOND LESSON: 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-16

Here is managerial balance for the life of faith: godliness with contentment. Love of money leads to a wandering from the faith and eternal destruction. Love for Christ results in fighting "the good fight" in this world in the sure hope of serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lords now and into eternity.

*My takeaways:*

***What major theme(s) connect(s) all the lessons?***