

## **For St. James Sunday School Students – 3/7/2021**

### ***Sunday School continues with 1 p.m. Zoom connection***

Back to our regular time: For our 25th session of the 2020-21 school year, please join us at 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 7, for a virtual get-together to talk about how we can observe Great Lent to ready ourselves for commemorating the crucifixion and resurrection of our Savior on Easter. We also will discuss the idea of stewardship, which is a fancy term for taking care of something. This week's readings include a wonderful Bible story about a smart steward who gets in trouble with his boss, then uses his smarts to save the day. Please check out the interesting video at this [link](#). Please join us:

#### **Meeting Link, ID and Passcode for 1 p.m. Sunday**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83554240465?pwd=M1Jvc1pZMjhUV29ESU1nN3BzT3hjUT09>

Meeting ID: 835 5424 0465

#### **Today is the Sunday of the Steward**

Stewards oversaw the finances and all the affairs of the house for wealthy families of ancient times. The steward in this parable (often translated as the “shrewd manager”) is farsighted about his own welfare. When his master accuses him of wasteful ways, demanding an accounting and threatening his dismissal, the steward reduces the moneys owed to his master by others so that they might employ him should it come to that (he was actually lowering his own built-in commission in every negotiation). He is commended by the master. Although a challenging parable, it is easier to understand when we see that Jesus is asking us to be as diligent and ambitious about our spiritual welfare as we are about our worldly security.



# Bible Readings for Sunday, March 7

## From Today's Readings

**Luke 16:1-31** See below for the Parable of the Steward (1-13). Today's reading also includes the renowned story of the unnamed rich man and Lazarus. The rich man ignores the poor and ailing Lazarus and after both have died, he sees that Lazarus is in heaven at Abraham's side. Lamenting his own torment far from God, he asks that Lazarus be sent to warn his brothers of what can happen when they live selfish lives. Abraham tells him they had already been well informed by the Law and the Prophets so nothing more could help. *Discuss/reflect: What do you think Jesus means when he says, "No one can serve two masters" (13)? What "masters" pull you away from God? What makes it so difficult for people to be convinced of God's ways?*

**Ephesians 4:17-5:14** St. Paul notes that 'children of light' must set aside past behaviors, having become renewed in Christ and created to be like God in true holiness (vv.23-24). The way of love excludes all the vices we might have once considered acceptable. *Discuss/reflect: What specific ways does St. Paul cite as examples of "new self" behavior? (25: speak truthfully, 26: let go of anger quickly, 28: engage in useful work so we're able to help others, 29: speak to build others up, 31: do not be bitter, or angry or slander others, 5:1: imitate God, 2: live a life of love, 3: avoid sexual immorality or any kind of impurity or greed, 7: avoid the people who encourage you to behave immorally.) Of those listed, what one behavior do you need God's help with?*

**Isaiah 56:1-57:21** Isaiah shares God's exhortation to his people to maintain justice, do what is right, keep the holy day holy and welcome all people, even "outsiders," removing obstacles in their way. To these he promises joy and blessings. He rails against the selfishness and ignorance of Israel's leaders who seek their own gain with "mighty appetites." *Discuss/reflect: Why the importance of keeping the Sabbath holy? How do you dedicate the day to the Lord? Does your church family or your Sunday worship service present obstacles for someone of another background?*



**For a video about a clever guy who outsmarts his boss, please click this [link](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lSzqfa4eB0U):**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lSzqfa4eB0U>**