

FOR THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gospel: Saint Luke 16: 1-9

The account you must give on the manner in
which you have done your work

61.1 First Point

A manager was accused of wasting the property of his employer, who called him and said: What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your management.³⁸⁴

You are in a holy work where God has placed you. You must be convinced that these words are addressed to you. At the close of each day and at the end of each performance of your work you should reflect that God calls you to give him an account of the way you have acquitted yourself. For this reason you should reflect and examine this account so that you will always be ready to give it, and act in such a way that God to whom you must make this report will not have any fault to find with it.

For if you wait to prepare this account of yourself until God himself comes to ask it of you, it is greatly to be feared that he will find you wanting.

61.2 Second Point

You have two accounts to give to God regarding the spiritual good you should achieve in your work. The first has to do with your duty to teach catechism and the Gospel maxims to the children. Not one of your students should go without being instructed in his religion; it is above all for this purpose that the Church entrusts them to you.

This is why you must look upon yourselves as persons to whom the deposit of the faith has been confided,³⁸⁵ so that you may pass it on to them. This is the good that God has placed in your hands and of which he has made you the manager.

In the account he will require of you will he not find many of your children ignorant of the principal mysteries of religion? If he does you will be more to blame than they, because by your negligence you have caused this ignorance in these children. Faith, according to Saint Paul, is communicated only through hearing and what is heard is nothing less than the word of Jesus Christ.³⁸⁶

61.3 Third Point

The second account you must give will have to do with piety, whether you take care to impart it to your disciples: whether they are self-controlled and reserved in church, whether they pray to God all the time they are there, whether they do not talk there, whether they do not sometimes play there; whether they pray to God every morning and evening, and whether when they pray in school they pray with attention; whether they have a horror for taking oaths and improper language; whether they respect their parents and obey them faithfully; whether they avoid bad companions; and whether you encourage them in all these practices; whether you watch diligently over their behavior as far as this is necessary in order to help them carry out these practices; whether you have care that they go to confession from time to time; and whether you get them good confessors.

Because you are responsible for the good of their souls, God will ask you for an account of all these things.³⁸⁷ Are you ready to give it? Is there nothing about which your conscience feels uneasy? For in these matters you are taking the place of the pastors of the Church and their fathers and mothers.

384 Lk 16:1-2

385 1 Tim 6:20

386 Rom 10:17

387 Heb 13:17