

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 15, 2026

LECTIONARY 33

Politics, Religion, and Money

A strong impulse to avoid discussing certain contentious subjects exists within many communities. Perhaps you have heard the conventional wisdom to avoid talking about politics or religion at a dinner party, for instance. Or maybe you have been in family or social relationships in which money was never discussed. Sometimes we even prefer not to engage these aspects of our lives through the lens of faith.

Throughout the gospels, however, Jesus challenges his followers not to avoid difficult topics. He challenges systems of economic and political inequality, overturning the tables of temple money changers and dining with those who lived on the margins of society. He has conversation after conversation with religious leaders whose views differ from his own. And in the parable of the talents, he tackles matters of wealth head-on. These events and stories in the life of Jesus invite us not to shy away from challenging topics of faith and life.

Are there aspects of our lives—within ourselves or in our community—that we would prefer to exclude from deeper examination? What is it about those parts of our lives that makes us wary of deeper introspection and conversation? The life of faith involves the *whole* of our lives, including our political action, religious convictions, and financial choices. Just as the enslaved ones in this parable were charged with carefully stewarding the resources entrusted to them, we are invited to probe our own choices around money and wealth through the lens of faith. Nothing is outside the bounds of our call to live faithfully!

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