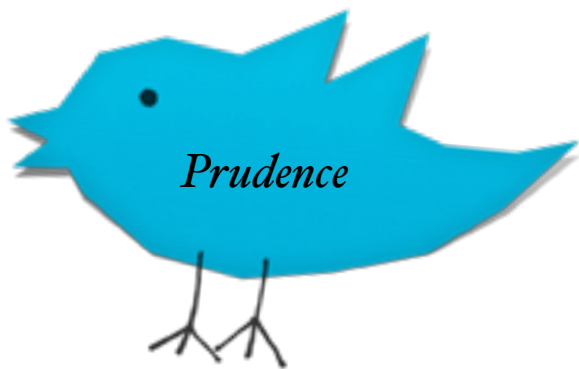




build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
 time



lectionary
 reading

Cycle C

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary #135

Reading I: Amos 8:4-7

In this passage, the prophet Amos warns people who for business and profit mistreat and keep down the poor. Amos describes practices where merchants cheat people who need to buy food by not weighing what they sell honestly. When they exploit and cheat the needy, Amos warns, they will be judged by God, who will never forget these injustices. What does Amos want those he addresses to stop doing? Who is most affected by the buying and selling practices Amos condemns? How do people trample upon the needy today? Who would Amos be talking to today?

Reading 2: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

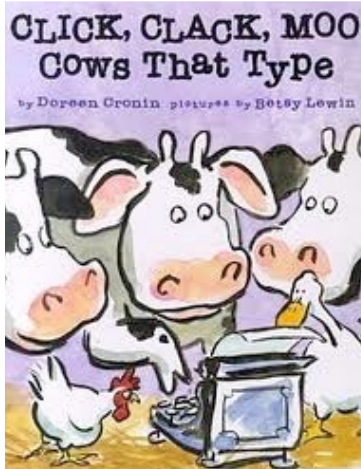
Saint Paul writes to a very young Timothy, who is in charge of a church that Saint Paul founded. In this letter Saint Paul stresses the need to pray for those in authority so that they may use their authority in the proper manner. People who are in important leadership positions can be of great assistance to those they are called to serve, but it is also true that a person in a powerful position may also be abusive with their power. Praying for those in authority is important so that they may remain faithful to being a servant-leader. Who in leadership today should we be praying for?

Gospel: Luke 16: 1-13

Jesus tells his disciples a story about a steward who is going to be fired. He can't find another job except as a steward. So he goes to see people who owe his master, and tells them to change the amount they give to his master. He hopes to benefit from this later. His master commends him for acting **prudently**. Jesus then says that the children of this world are **prudent** at dealing with like themselves. However, the children of light should be able to act prudently as well. But they must keep in mind who they are working for. Being divided between two things often will cause us confusion but we can always be assured when we make God our priority we are on the right side of where our loyalties should reside.



children's
story



Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That Type

Written by Doreen Cronin

Illustrated by Betsy Lewin

Publication: 2000 Simon and Schuster

ISBN-10: 0-689-83213-3



character
education
activity

A prudent person thinks ahead. A prudent person thinks about what to do or avoid doing next and is ready for the future

Click, Clack, Moo, Cows that Type

On Farmer Brown's farm, the cows are cold. Using the resources available to them, the cows type on a typewriter and ask for electric blankets. Farmer Brown can't believe it. So he goes to the barn and looks. The cows leave him a note that says that he needs to give them electric blankets. Farmer Brown would never do that so the cows go on strike. The chickens tell the cows that they are also cold, so the cows advocate for them as well. Given the chickens demand for electric blankets, which Farmer Brown also denies, the chickens go on strike as well. Eventually Farmer Brown finds a typewriter of his own and writes and delivers an ultimatum to the animals. The response: the animals will give away their typewriters for the blankets. Farmer Brown gives in, but the duck deliverer takes the typewriter and demands a diving board from Farmer Brown.

Practicing Perspective Taking

Step One: Put yourself in Farmer Brown's position. Would you give the cows and chickens electric blankets? Now think of what it would be like to be a cow in the cold. Do you think the cows, the chickens and the duck acted prudently to meet their needs? Didn't they use the resources they had available? What would happen if we were just as prudent in doing good things every day?

Step Two: Think of all the lessons that you have learned from the bible accounts given you in this exercise and what you have learned from the story *Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That Type*. In small groups and with the assistance of your teacher write a skit that you can perform for that will teach about the virtue of **prudence**.

**Prudence means
thinking first and using
all the resources you
have.**

Start with prayer.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

Your church and school sponsors an after school tutoring program for the local community, and people of many ages participate in it. Everyone says it is a great program, and students find it very helpful. Many volunteer tutors, as well as students, say they just don't have time to continue, because they have so many other things to do. At a recent meeting they proposed ending the program because it is so hard for people to find the time to do it. You know many of the people and know they are spend a great deal of time working or going to school, but they also spend a lot on less critical things like TV, media, face-book, and recreation, not to mention talking and complaining. You wonder where all their time goes, and if they really use it prudently. If time were used more **prudently**, would the program have to end?

What do you think? What would you say to the tutors and to the students

Look Feel Know Act

This gospel story is always puzzling. What are we supposed to learn from it? We aren't sure whether the steward is dishonest or not. Was he just a poor manager or was there more to the story? Did he settle his master's accounts out of his commission, or was he setting up his future at his master's expense? Whatever the case may be, the master praises him for being prudent, for looking ahead, and using the resources available to him. And that is what is important in this story, not whether the steward was honest or dishonest. Jesus notes how clever the steward is, and how the children of this world are as well. The interesting question Jesus raises is: "What if the children of light were just as clever, just as prudent, and made just as good use of the resources available to them?"

A **prudent** person thinks ahead: a **prudent** person thinks about what to do, or avoid doing, next, and is ready for the future. **Prudence** means thinking before I act. **Prudence** is about thinking ahead.

In *Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That Type*, the cows let the farmer know what they need, and also advocate for the chickens, through the notes they type to Framer Brown. They were using their resources they had available to get things done. What are some of the things you need to get done in your world? Or in the bigger world around you?



closing tool

Pray that you will always seek to be the unique image of God that you are and celebrate that fact. Pray also that God will give you the wisdom to see the uniqueness of others and also celebrate that as well.



**Santa Clara
University**

Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
ethics programs for communities that learn, live, pray, or work together

www.scu.edu/character