

Pastor's Bible Study

September 21, 2025

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20)

#730 "What Is the World to Me"



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Read Amos 8:4-7

1. Read Deuteronomy 15:7-11. How does Moses instruct God's people to treat the poor?
2. What is the object of the Lord's rebuke in this text?
3. Luther explained the Seventh Commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Steal," with these words: "We should fear and love God that we may not take our neighbor's money or property, nor get them by false ware or dealing, but help him to improve

and protect his property and business.” How does Luther’s explanation of the Seventh Commandment capture the actions described in verse five?

Read Luke 16:1-15

4. Carefully read and describe the action in Jesus’ parable (16:1-8).
5. What is a parable? If Jesus told this story to convey a “heavenly truth,” what can we be sure this parable does NOT mean?
6. In verse eight, we are told that the master “commended” the dishonest manager. How should this be understood?
7. In the second half of verse eight, Jesus establishes a contrast. What is it, and what is He trying to communicate through this contrast?
8. In the ESV, verse nine reads, “I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.” Why is wealth referred to as “unrighteous” or “worldly?”
9. How can worldly resources be used to impact “eternal dwellings?”
10. What new ideas are emphasized in verses 10-13?
11. Why do the Pharisees react in the way they do, and how are Jesus’ words in verse 15 challenging to us as well?
12. What is the core teaching of the two readings we studied today?
13. How does verse 15 connect to Jesus’ redemptive work? See I Corinthians 1:18-25.

Devotional Thought from The Lutheran Study Bible

“Guard against becoming enslaved to the pursuit of wealth. Instead, use money for godly and eternal purposes. God offers us lasting treasure in Christ and, in Christ, gives us a true perspective on the use of money and goods” (TL SB, 1749).

Prayer

Deliver us, Father, from the love of money, and increase our love for You and for one another. Amen.