

Subject: Passion Audit

From: St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>

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September 18, 2013

Passion Audit

The master commended the dishonest manager because he was shrewd.

Luke 16:15

What?

This parable sounds very strange to our ears. Taking a close look we can see a few things:

1. The manager knew he was wrong- he did not offer any defense. In that culture there was usually a few days of haggling after your boss told you that you were fired in hopes you could keep your job. This manager knew he was caught

2. The manager hatches a plan and makes the boss's debtors complicit in a dishonest (or even illegal) scheme). The manager had some leverage after

he would be out on the street.

3. Here is the strangest thing- the boss commends the manager for being shrewd (not for being dishonest).

Why?

Remember Jesus told parables primarily to build faith. He uses some shocking turns and twists in this story to underline one thing: The boss is a merciful and generous man. The manager took the risk based on his faith that his boss was merciful and generous. That applies to us this way- we can take risks of faith (John Wimber used to say faith is spelled r-i-s-k) because of the generosity and mercy of God.

So . . .

What is your greatest desire, your passion? You can follow that and bear fruit for the kingdom of God because of the mercy and generosity of God. This Sunday I will be asking you to consider what God is saying to you about these questions, and what does He want you to do about them:

What are your heart's desires? What are you passionate about? What excites you (kids, environment, people, family, healing, etc., etc., etc. . . .)?

What is your holy discontent? What grieves or saddens you? What do you see and think "that's not fair!" (kids on street corners, litter, abuse, families breaking up, etc., etc., etc. . . .)

What are the opportunities? Where are there places of grace, influence and invitation?

What are the strengths and assets of the community? Where could you be a blessing/good news to the local community? How could you strengthen those assets and strengths?

What have you heard from God? What has God said in the past, through Scripture and other people, about the present or the future?*

One of those questions may make your calling, gifting, and passion clearer. You are engaged with a God who empowers you to go into it.

*I do not remember where I found this so I cannot give the author credit. I did adapt a few of the questions for use at St. Francis.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, September 22, 2013

Worship at 10:00am followed by pot luck lunch

After coffee hour book study resumes with the first chapter of Missional Communities by Reggie McNeal

Saturday, September 28 9am work day at St. Francis

Saturday, October 5 10:00am Blessing of the animals at St. Francis

Sunday October 13 4:00pm Celebration of a New Ministry.

The Rt Rev Susan Goff
Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia
and the people of
St. Francis Episcopal Church, Manakin-Sabot, Virginia
invite your prayers and presence at

The celebration of a new ministry
they share with
The Rev Dr. John F. Maher, Jr.
Vicar of
All Saints' Episcopal Church

Sunday the 13th of October 2013 4pm

1484 Hockett Rd.
Manakin Sabot, VA 23103

Reception to follow

Clergy: unvested and seated with the people

Please email rsvp by October 9, 2011 to
vicar@stfrancisva.org
or call 804-784-6116

Centerville Circle of Prayer:

For the Wally's Wholesale that this business would be able to provide for those in need in our communities as well as for its employees

Metro Richmond at Prayer:

For schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all universities, colleges, seminaries, trade, technical, graduate, ad professional schools; for the students, faculty, and staff of these institutions.

As I prepare for teaching from the gospels, especially recently the parables, I have found Kenneth Bailey's [Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes](#) to be very valuable. I recommend it to you.

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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