

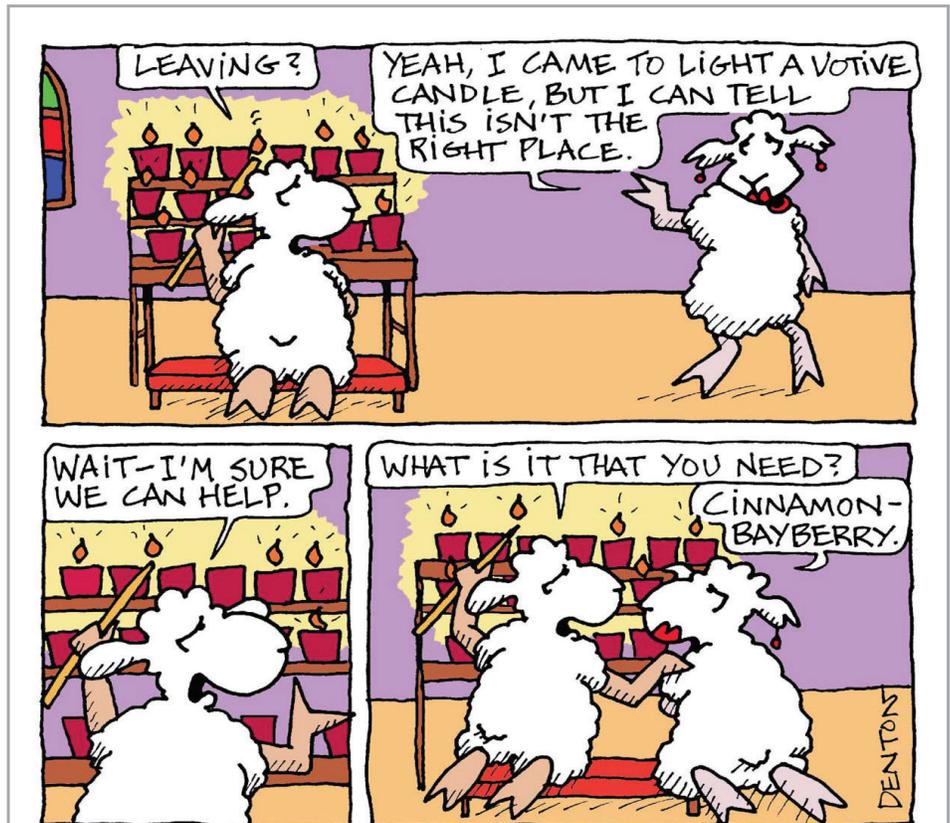
# Bad or Good News?

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- ▶ Wisdom 18:6-9 - On the death of the Egyptian firstborn
- ▶ Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12 - Faith of Abraham
- ▶ Luke 12:32-48 or 12:35-40 - Depend on God, not possessions

Luke's Gospel, more than any others, has an emphasis on money, possessions, and wealth. Luke includes parables about riches (such as last week's parable about the rich man who built bigger barns) that are not found in Matthew, Mark, or John. The Gospel also states several times that Jesus directed his disciples to go out and continue his ministry without taking any personal belongings along with them.

It's a challenge that is hard for most of us to hear, and we can quickly go to rationalizations about why we may not be called to do the same thing. Of course it would have been just as hard for Jesus' disciples to hear too. But instead of reacting to what sounds like bad news to us ("sell your belongings and give alms") can we instead



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“Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.”

## Sheepish Question:

As God's servant, how can I be ready to meet others' needs in unexpected situations?

listen for the good news in the directive? After all, Jesus didn't come to make our lives more difficult, or impoverished. He said that he came so that we may have life, and have life in it's fullness. So if he is asking us to sell our possessions, he must have good reason.

The good news is that in letting go of physical possessions, we get an "inexhaustible treasure" in return that no thief can reach, nor corruption can touch. "Where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." When we come to our last moments on this earth, where do we want our treasure to be? In our material belongings? Or in the store of love we have given and received amidst our relationships?

## Questions of the Week

- ① What might you be invited to let go of ("sell") so that you can have more freedom in following Jesus?
- ② What does it mean to you that "where your treasure is, there also will your heart be"? Where is your treasure at this time in your life?

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