

Weekly Stewardship Scripture Reflections Lectionary Cycle A

February 3, 2008 (Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do *for the sake of the kingdom!*
The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the kingdom *will* be rewarded!

February 6, 2008 (Ash Wednesday)

Today's Gospel reminds us that all of our giving – whether of alms or of service – must always be done for love of God alone and not for the applause of our brothers and sisters.

February 10, 2008 (First Sunday of Lent)

What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

February 17, 2008 (Second Sunday of Lent)

“Bear your share of the hardship for the Gospel,” St. Paul tells Timothy in today's second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share?

February 24, 2008 (Third Sunday of Lent)

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

March 2, 2008 (Fourth Sunday of Lent)

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

March 9, 2008 (Fifth Sunday of Lent)

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, “This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God's glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified.” Every aspect of our lives – our gifts as well as our sufferings – can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for others and ourselves.

March 16, 2008 (Palm Sunday)

“Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” shout the crowds in today's Gospel. May *we* be always ready to share our blessings when *we* are sent in His name!

or

“The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them,” says Isaiah in today's first reading. The gifts God has given us are likewise given for the good of others. How am I using my gifts?

Weekly Stewardship Scripture Reflections Lectionary Cycle A

March 23, 2008 (Easter)

Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with precious oils. The reward of this good and conscientious steward was to be among the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Alleluia!

March 30, 2008 (Second Sunday of Easter)

Jesus meets the need of each disciple. To the fearful in the upper room, He speaks words of peace. To doubting Thomas, He provides the tangible proof of His resurrection. What do *I* need to become His disciple? What do I have to share that might meet someone else's need?

April 6, 2008 (Third Sunday of Easter)

The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus all day long, but it was not until they offered Him hospitality and He blessed and broke the bread that they recognized Him. Simple acts of loving kindness *still* reveal the presence of God in our midst.

April 13, 2008 (Fourth Sunday of Easter)

Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it to the full." Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

April 20, 2008 (Fifth Sunday of Easter)

"Those who have faith in Me will do the works I do, and far greater than these," Jesus tells His disciples. That's quite an assignment for us as Christian stewards!

April 27, 2008 (Sixth Sunday of Easter)

Those who obey the commandments, Jesus says in today's Gospel, are the ones who really love Him. Does my stewardship reveal my love for Jesus?

May 4, 2008 (Seventh Sunday of Easter / Ascension)

In today's Gospel, Jesus prays "I have given You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do." Good stewards follow His example by using their time and talents for the glory of God.

May 11, 2008 (Pentecost)

In the second reading today, St. Paul reminds the Corinthians, "There are different gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different ministries, but the same Lord." How am I using my gifts for the common good?

May 18, 2008 (Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time / Holy Trinity)

In today's first reading, the Israelites are urged to love their neighbors as themselves. In the Gospel, Jesus spells out how we are to do that – to give generously to those who ask of us and not to turn our backs on those who seek to borrow.

May 25, 2008 (Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Stewards of the mysteries of God – that's what St. Paul says we are in today's second reading. And the first requirement, he says, is that we be trustworthy. Entrusted with the gift of faith, do I share it as gratefully and as generously as I do my time, my talent, and my treasure?

Weekly Stewardship Scripture Reflections Lectionary Cycle A

June 1, 2008 (Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Today's readings call us to active discipleship. It is not enough to know the commandments; we must actively obey them. It is not enough to hear the words of Jesus, we must act on them. Good stewards demonstrate their gratitude for the gift of faith by putting it into action.

June 8, 2008 (Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

"It is love that I desire, not sacrifice," says Hosea in today's first reading. But for love of us, Jesus sacrificed everything – even His life. Are my small sacrifices gifts of love and gratitude?

June 15, 2008 (Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today's Gospel, Jesus sends out the disciples to meet the needs of others. His admonition to them is the same challenge He makes to us: "The gift you have received, give as a gift."

June 22, 2008 (Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

The psalmist assures us that "the Lord hears the poor." Often, however, He answers their needs through the generous gifts of good stewards.

or

"Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed," Jesus tells us in the Gospel today, "and nothing hidden that will not become known." May our stewardship of God's gifts be such that we would not be ashamed if it were seen in the clear light of day.

June 29, 2008 (Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Both the first reading and the Gospel today speak of hospitality and welcome. Our ministers of hospitality are a most visible example of using one's time and talents to welcome the people of God. But the Gospel assures us that all who give even just "a cup of cold water" to one of His lowliest ones will be rewarded.

July 6, 2008 (Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

"Let all Your works give You thanks, Oh Lord, and let Your faithful Ones bless You," says the psalmist. Stewardship is this "attitude of gratitude" for the many gifts God has given us.

July 13, 2008 (Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

May our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure show us to be among those who have heard the message of Christ and taken it in, yielding a hundred – or sixty – or thirty-fold!

July 20, 2008 (Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

"Those who are just must be kind," says today's first reading. If our words and deeds are kind and selfless, we will be like the good seed in the Gospel parable and gathered as what in the Lord's harvest.

July 27, 2008 (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

"The law of Your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces," says the psalmist today. Does the amount of my offering suggest that I could honestly say the same?

Weekly Stewardship Scripture Reflections Lectionary Cycle A

August 3, 2008 (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today's Gospel, Jesus feeds the five thousand with fives loaves and two fish. The message of stewardship is that God's gifts, *shared*, will always be more than enough.

or

"The hand of the Lord feeds us," sings the psalmist; "He answers all our needs." Often, though, it is with the open hands of generous stewards willing to share His many gifts that God's people are fed and their needs met.

August 10, 2008 (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Elijah recognized the voice of God not in the strong and heavy wind, not in the earthquake, and not in the fire, but in a tiny whispering sound. May we find enough quiet in our clamorous world to hear His voice and discern what He is calling us to do and be.

August 17, 2008 (Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today's second reading, St. Paul tells the Romans, "God's gifts and his call are irrevocable." To what is God calling me today? What gifts are mind to share?

August 24, 2008 (Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today's reading, St. Paul reminds the Romans – and us – that all things come from God: "For from Him and through Him and for Him all things are." Good stewards understand that *all* is gift and share generously the gifts of time, talent, and treasure with which they've been blessed.

August 31, 2008 (Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today's second reading, St. Paul exhorts the Romans to *total* stewardship. Brothers and sisters, he urges, "...offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God."

September 7, 2008 (Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Am I my brother's keeper? All three readings today suggest that for the Christian steward the answer is "Yes!"

September 14, 2008 (Exaltation of the Cross)

Even though the Lord led them out of Egypt and provided for their every need, the people in today's first reading were complaining and ungrateful. Does my stewardship of God's gifts show that I know from Whom they come and am grateful?

September 21, 2008 (Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today's Gospel, the vineyard owner says, "I am free to do as I please with my money, am I not?" We are likewise free. Is a generous return to the Lord in thanksgiving for His many blessings among the choices we have made?

or

Good stewards follow the advice of St. Paul and conduct themselves – by wise use of their time and talents – in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

Weekly Stewardship Scripture Reflections Lectionary Cycle A

September 28, 2008 (Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

The first son in today's Gospel said he would do his father's bidding, but did not. The second son balked at first, but then repented and did as he was asked. What service is God calling me to do? Which son am I more like?

October 5, 2008 (Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In the Gospel today, the owner of the vineyard send messengers to collect his share of the harvest from the tenant farmers, but there was not a single good steward on the property! God is the owner, we are the tenants. What sort of stewards are we?

October 12, 2008 (Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today's second reading, St. Paul thanks the Philippians for being willing to share in his hardships and promises that God, in turn, will fully supply all their needs. Our God truly cannot be outdone in generosity!

October 19, 2008 (Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Each year at tax time, we conscientiously give "to Caesar what belongs to Caesar." Does my stewardship indicate that I am as faithful about giving "to God what belongs to God"?

or (if celebrated as "Mission Sunday")

The bishop's pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us, "Jesus not only calls people to him but also forms them and sends them out in his service. Being sent on a mission is a consequence of being a disciple."

October 26, 2008 (Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

We fulfill the commandment to love our neighbor when we exercise good stewardship – joyfully sharing our gifts of life, abilities, and resources to meet our neighbor's need.

November 2, 2008 (All Souls)

On the Feast of All Souls we pray for those who have gone before us and stand in judgment before God. May we share with one another the treasure of love's memory, and console one another with the assurance of resurrection.

November 9, 2008 (Dedication of St. John Lateran)

As we pray today for an increase of spiritual gifts, we are reminded by the bishop's pastoral on stewardship that good stewardship of the Church "means cherishing and fostering the gifts of all, while using one's own gifts to serve the community of faith."

November 16, 2008 (Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Good stewards are like the industrious and reliable servants in today's Gospel, prudently using and multiplying the gifts entrusted to them by God.

or

The "worthy wife" described in today's first reading is a perfect example of active stewardship, reaching out her hands to the poor and extending her arms to the needy.

Weekly Stewardship Scripture Reflections

Lectionary Cycle A

November 23, 2008 (Christ the King)

When the Son of Man comes in glory, may we be among those who have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, and clothed the naked. For Jesus tells us clearly that it is those who have demonstrated good stewardship by sharing their gifts with the less fortunate who will receive God's blessing and inherit the kingdom.