

Weekly Bulletin Stewardship Reflections - September 2010

September 5th – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship is all about giving freely and joyfully. It's not simply about 'giving to a need' – it's about '*needing* to give'! Our giving is then a reflection of our gratitude to God. We all enjoy an abundance of possessions. However, our society is propagating a myth of scarcity which makes some reluctant to give. In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of what our attitude towards our possessions should be if we are to be His disciples. Good stewardship means not clinging to our possessions and letting go of our '*need* to possess'. If we possess sensibly, it allows us to give freely and live generously.

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September 12th – 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

All of the readings today speak of God's mercy. Mercy is a virtue that must be central to our lives if we are to be authentic disciples of Jesus. Another word for mercy is 'forgiveness'. Showing love, compassion, and a willingness to forgive others and ourselves... this is how we are called to be as disciples. It's not easy to be a disciple sometimes. Knowing we have a loving and merciful God offers us much hope as we struggle to be disciples and good stewards.

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September 19th – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"You cannot serve God and wealth", says Jesus. We cannot separate God and our finances. Our talents and abilities, education and opportunities, are all gifts from God which enable us to earn an income. Then, is it not true that any income we are able to earn is also a gift from God? We are all blessed with wealth far beyond that which most people in the world will ever know, even though we might not think ourselves wealthy. Good stewardship is putting God first when it comes to earning, investing, spending, and above all sharing our wealth.

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September 26th – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The message in today's Gospel is simple... God condemns hoarding! The blessings we receive in this life are not meant solely for our own benefit. We have all been given different gifts, some more than others. These differences belong to God's plan that we share what we have with others. These differences encourage us to live generously. One day God will hold us accountable for the stewardship we exercised over the particular portion of gifts entrusted to us.

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