

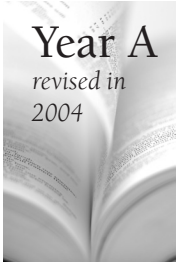
Sunday by Sunday: Reflections on Stewardship

based on the RCL gospels

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(This resource was written when Archdeacon Pollesel was Stewardship Education Coordinator, Diocese of Ontario)

What follows is a series of reflections which are based on the Revised Common Lectionary. The purpose of the reflections is to encourage the individuals reading them to think about holistic stewardship.



Advent 1 • *Matthew 24:36-44*

Today's gospel, marking the beginning of the new Church year, sounds pretty scary! Jesus reminds us that things can change very quickly and that there is a need to stay alert. As one who wants to live as a faithful steward, how does my life show that I am alert and participating in bringing God's dream for creation to reality?

Advent 2 • *Matthew 3:1-12*

Like so many prophets before him, John the Baptist called on people to change their ways. And the proof of these changes would be seen in the fruit borne out in their lives. Simply saying that we are stewards isn't enough, is it? It will be seen in the fruit of our own lives. What kind of fruit do others see from the way you live?

Advent 3 • *Matthew 11:2-11*

Jesus answers John's question by pointing to the signs that God's dream for creation are there for all to see. God's dream for creation is that all live in "shalom," a well-being that takes in everything and everyone. As one who wants to be a faithful steward, what am I doing to help make this dream come true?

Advent 4 • *Matthew 1:18-25*

God speaks to Joseph by means of a dream. Joseph pays attention to that dream and changes his own plans. The Bible often tells us of God speaking to individuals through dreams. As a faithful steward, what do you do with your plans when God speaks to you in some way?

Christmas • *Luke 2:1-14, Luke 2:8-20, John 1:1-14*

The story of Christmas tells us of the birth of Jesus. One commentator has referred to this story as the story of the birth of a possibility. A faithful steward is one who asks: What possibilities are waiting to be born in me? And, how can I help in making these possibilities real?

Christmas 1 • *Matthew 2:13-23*

Once again God speaks to Joseph through dreams. And again, Joseph pays attention to these dreams and bases his actions on them. There is a cost that goes along with this. Joseph and his small family have to leave the familiar and go into the unfamiliar. As a faithful steward, how willing am I to leave what is familiar and go into what may make me feel uncomfortable?

Christmas 2 • *John 1:(1-9), 10-18*

John tells us very clearly that no one has ever seen God. He goes on to say that Jesus, who is nearest to God's heart, has made God known to us. It seems that a faithful steward would intentionally try to have a relationship with Jesus, so that s/he could know more about God. How's my relationship with Jesus?

The Epiphany of Our Lord • *Matthew 2:1-12*

This gospel story tells us that Jesus didn't come to earth to be the exclusive property of a select group of people. His arrival was made known to all peoples. Some, those who were "on the fringes," so to speak, went to great lengths to get to know him. As a faithful steward, to what lengths am I willing to go in order to get to know Jesus?

The Baptism of the Lord • *Matthew 3:13-17*

"This is . . . my Beloved, on whom my favour rests." How would we feel, how would we react, would we live, if we were to truly let these words soak into our lives? It seems to me that we would see just how deeply these words could be lived out by observing the life of a faithful steward.

2nd Sunday after Epiphany • *John 1:29-42*

John points the disciples to Jesus, who invites them to come and spend some time with him. As they spend time with him, they begin to see and understand what it means to be a steward, that is, one who cares. Do we care enough to spend time with Jesus so that we can point him out to others? Are we "walking advertisements" for living the kind of life Jesus would have us live?

3rd Sunday after Epiphany • *Matthew 4:12-23*

After Jesus has accepted his mission in life, which is to proclaim the God's "kingdom" is now here, he goes around telling others this news. What does it mean for us to now be living in this "kingdom"? How can those around us tell that our lives reflect this reality? A faithful steward not only has an intellectual understanding of this reality, but actually lives it out.

4th Sunday after Epiphany • *Matthew 5:1-12*

Want to know what God's dream for all creation looks like? Study today's words from Jesus. A faithful steward not only strives to understand these words, but also lets them be a guide in the way s/he lives. Am I willing to let my life be turned upside down by allowing myself to be guided by what is important to bring God's dream to reality?

Last Sunday after Epiphany (The Transfiguration) • *Matthew 17:1-9*

Three disciples have a "mountain top" experience with Jesus. However, that's not where they remain. They head back down the mountain, to where they live out their daily lives. A faithful steward knows that life is not lived as a series of mountain top experiences, but rather somewhere below. Sometimes, life down below gets pretty rough. How's it going for you?

Ash Wednesday • *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

“Don’t be such a show off!” Jesus warns the people back then. What a stark contrast to this day and age when the prevailing attitude is one of: “If you’ve got it, flaunt it!” The faithful steward lives a life guided by the knowledge that it’s more important to help God’s dream come true than to live up to this world’s expectations.

Lent 1 • *Matthew 4:1-11*

How many of us find ourselves in some kind of wilderness these days? How many of us feel pulled towards the many attractions of our day and age? Jesus also went through similar temptations, but was able to withstand them. A faithful steward lives a life following the example of Jesus. Take these Lenten Days to explore just how you’re doing as a Disciple, one who follows the example of Jesus.

Lent 2 • *John 3:1-17*

Jesus came to earth to help in God’s “rescue mission.” In other words, Jesus came to help work out God’s dream for creation. A faithful steward looks for ways through which s/he can also assist in helping to bring God’s dream closer to reality. How are you doing?

Lent 3 • *John 4:5-42*

“God is not tied to place, and those who truly worship God must worship him as he truly is, without regard to place.” How many of us feel that we can only truly worship God in that space we call “our Church”? We know this to be questionable, and yet it’s seems so difficult for many to actually put this into practice. The faithful steward is one who realizes that God is not tied to a single building, not matter how beautiful or nostalgic it may be.

Lent 4 • *John 9:1-41*

The Pharisees (those “in the know”) seem to think they’ve got all the right answers. The blind beggar (who has been “on the sidelines”) seems to recognize who Jesus really is, and what he’s about. What kinds of implications are there in this story for those of us who consider ourselves to be faithful disciples and stewards?

Lent 5 • *John 11:1-45*

“Many . . . who . . . observed what Jesus had done came to believe in him.” It seems so much easier for them, back then, to believe. But, what if you were able to see something similar happen right now. Would you believe? A faithful steward is one who believes that their role is to help God’s dream for creation come true. What are you doing to make the dream a reality?

Sunday of the Passion, with the Liturgy of the Palms • *Matthew 2:1-11, Matthew 26:14-27:66*

Both of these passages (one quite short and the other very long) describe some of the very intense situations in the life of Jesus and some of his followers. Many church-goers seem to opt for attending services this day and then again on Easter Day, skipping the in-between “stuff.” A faithful steward accepts the reality that at least some of life is lived out in the intense situations and doesn’t avoid them.

Easter Day • *John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10*

“The disciples had locked the doors for fear.” “Don’t be afraid.” So much of our modern culture, especially in this part of the world, seems to be based on fear. What would life be like, both personally as well as corporately, were we to live “AS IF” we had nothing to fear? As faithful stewards and disciples can we at least try during these 50 Easter days?

2nd Sunday of Easter • *John 20:19-31*

“I came so that they can have life and have it to the full,” says Jesus earlier in John’s gospel. Today we hear that these are written so that “you will come to believe . . . and . . . have life in his name.” A faithful steward shows this full life by the way they live out their daily lives. As they say: “There’s no life like it!”

3rd Sunday of Easter • *Luke 24:13-35*

Isn’t it interesting how these two disciples of Jesus don’t recognize him at first? They come to recognize him after he has “interpreted every passage of scripture” and then took bread, blessed and broke it, and “started passing it to them.” Jesus makes himself known to us in many ways, but a faithful steward will always look for their clues by referring to scripture and taking part in the Eucharist.

4th Sunday of Easter • *John 10:1-10*

Jesus is the ultimate steward. He cares for the sheep, i.e., what has been entrusted to his care, with utmost regard for their welfare. As people who want to be his disciples, ought we not to take his life as an example, a template, for our own actions?

5th Sunday after Easter • *John 14:1-14*

Jesus tells Philip that anyone who believes in him will be able “to perform even greater feats” than he himself has. A faithful steward lives AS IF they have not only heard this message, but have also accepted it as a basis for their day-to-day interactions with those around them.

6th Sunday after Easter • *John 14:15-21*

Jesus promises his disciples that he will go on living in and through them. A faithful steward hears this and allows her or himself to be used as a channel for Jesus in our own world. So, what characteristics of Jesus are going to be seen by what you do and say?

7th Sunday after Easter • *John 17:1-11*

Jesus is leaving this world. He will no longer be physically present to his disciples. It is now up to them - to you and me - to be the ears, the eyes, the feet, the hands of Jesus in this world of ours. And, oh yes, it’s also up to you and me to be the heart of Jesus here and now. Tall order? Not for the faithful steward.

Day of Pentecost • *John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39*

The gift of the Holy Spirit, given to all who live as faithful stewards, can be both a blessing and a curse. A blessing, in that the Spirit does indeed offer us a source of sustenance for our journey. A curse, in that the Spirit forces us to see the choices we make which are contrary to God’s dream for all creation, thereby not allowing us “off the hook” for them.

Trinity Sunday • *Matthew 28:16-20*

“So long as this world continues its course,” says Jesus to his followers, “I’ll be with you day in and day out.” We know that the realities of life in our world are sometimes very difficult to bear. How fortunate the steward who faces these with the knowledge and assurance that Jesus accompanies them!

2nd Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 7:21-29*

The words of today’s gospel tell us plainly that, as the familiar Christmas song puts it: “Words are not enough!” The faithful steward is the one whose actions reflect the words. In other words, the faithful steward is the one who not only “talks the talk,” but who “walks the walk.”

3rd Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26*

Isn’t it ironic how those who were deemed to be on the “outside” — sinners and toll collectors — always seemed to find where Jesus was and wanted to be near him. As a faithful steward, how much time do you make to be with Jesus on a regular basis?

4th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 9:35- 10:8 (9-23)*

What humble beginnings for Christianity - twelve people who went out, equipped with their marching orders from Jesus. And look at the impact those twelve had on the rest of the world! How often do you hear: “We don’t have enough.” (people, money, space - you name it!) Today’s gospel teaches us that great things can and do come from very little - something a faithful steward needs to keep in mind.

5th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 10:24-39*

In the latter part of today’s gospel Jesus speaks words that sound pretty harsh to our modern ears. “Who do you love more than me?” he asks. “If there’s anyone you love more than me, you’re not worthy of me!” As faithful stewards, how do our lives show that Jesus is at the very center of all we say and do?

6th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 10:40-42*

To whom do we give, and why? Jesus reminds us that the faithful steward who gives even a minute amount to someone who is a follower will not go unrewarded. In and of itself, that ought to be enough to encourage each of us to be generous in our giving.

7th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30*

It’s difficult to find many these days who don’t feel “overburdened.” We all seem to have a great deal on our “plates.” Jesus reminds us that the faithful steward is the one who comes to Jesus and asks him to share the burden.

8th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23*

Ever stopped to ask yourself just what kind of soil the word finds in you? Know how to find out? It’s very simple, really. Just take a look at your life — how much and what kind of “fruit” do you see being produced regularly?

9th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

How do you help “good seed” to not only take root, but to grow, and keep on growing in your life? Jesus suggests that the faithful steward is the one who listens to the words his words and allows them to guide all of her or his life.

10th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

Heaven’s imperial rule, also known as the kingdom of heaven, seems like a pretty interesting and exciting place to be. The faithful steward is one who does what they can to help this part of God’s dream come closer to reality each and every day. How are you helping it come about?

11th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 14:13-21*

The familiar story of the loaves and fishes, seen through the eyes of a steward, serves as a reminder that from seemingly small and insignificant beginnings, great things can happen. Why, there are even leftovers! Do you see God’s abundant generosity in your world?

12th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 14:22-33*

Does your life ever feel like it’s being pounded and tossed around? Do you feel like you’re sinking, with no way of being rescued? Sometimes, it does get that bad, doesn’t it. The faithful steward knows not only when to ask for help but, more importantly, who to ask.

13th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28*

“Your trust is enormous,” says Jesus to this Canaanite woman. A faithful steward is one who is able to show enormous trust in Jesus. If you were asked about your level of trust in Jesus, just how would you respond?

14th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 16:13-20*

Peter responds to the question of Jesus with what some might call an inspired answer. Jesus is God’s anointed - God’s chosen one. If someone was to ask you, as a follower of Jesus, and (hopefully) as a faithful steward, who or what would you say Jesus is?

15th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 16:21-28*

“You aren’t thinking in God’s terms, but in human terms,” says Jesus to Peter. The faithful steward is one who seeks to discern God’s “terms” and allows these to guide their own thoughts and actions — minute by minute and day by day.

16th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 18:15-20*

Some people say that they can’t see or find Jesus anywhere in their lives. In today’s gospel, Jesus reminds us that he will be found wherever two or three are gathered together in his name. Sounds like Jesus likes to be among company. How often do you gather with others “in his name”?

17th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 18:21-35*

Who says stewardship has nothing to do with anything but money? This story clearly tells us that stewardship and forgiveness are interwoven. Jesus reminds us that the faithful steward is the one who cares so much for others that they are able to forgive - even when they might feel they are owed much!

18th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 20:1-16*

"I'll pay you whatever is fair," says the owner of the vineyard to those he hires. However, by the end of the day, the payment hardly seems fair to those who have worked under the hot sun all day long. God's generosity knows no bounds. How many times do you think to yourself: "God's not being fair to me"? Think again!

19th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 21:23-32*

Jesus speaks about John the Baptist to those who "have it made." They didn't listen to John's message which advocated for justice. However, says Jesus, the toll collectors and prostitutes did. And they (as we all know) didn't "have it made." Are there connections between stewardship and justice? You be the judge.

20th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 21:33-46*

Jesus hits the ranking priests and the Pharisees right between the eyes with this story. After all, they expect to inherit what they think is rightfully theirs. A faithful steward knows that in order to be given God's domain they have to live a life which shows that they merit it.

21st Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 22:1-14*

There's a certain "edge" to this story, isn't there. "Many are called, but few are chosen." We now these words only too well. Some even use them jokingly. Do you think Jesus was joking? A wise steward will not only listen to these words, but take them to heart.

Harvest Thanksgiving • *Luke 17:11-19*

The story of ten people being given a very precious gift, and only one of them having what we might call the common courtesy to say "Thank You" to the giver. A faithful steward knows where the gifts they receive come from, and more than that, they know how to say "Thank You." Do you?

22nd Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 22:15-22*

Imagine, trying to entrap Jesus with a riddle. How laughable, we might think to ourselves. And yet, don't we often do the same kinds of things? A faithful steward knows only too well that absolutely everything belongs to God, and that the steward's task is to take care of those things God has given to their charge.

23rd Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 22:34-46*

There's an order to these two commandments: love God first, and then love your neighbour AS you love yourself. The wise steward is the one who tries to obey and follow these each and every day of their lives. How are you doing?

24th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 23:1-12*

“They’re all talk and no action,” says Jesus of some of the leaders of his day. Stewardship is not about being all talk. Rather, it’s about letting our actions speak for us. What would your actions say about you?

All Saints • *Matthew 5:1-12*

Today’s passage could be seen as describing the characteristics of what it takes to be a faithful steward. Can you see yourself in any of the descriptions Jesus offers? If so - congratulations! If not - why not?

25th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 25:1-13*

Sounds like Jesus is offering a lesson on good and prudent stewardship in today’s gospel. In thinking about your own life, would you say that your decisions and actions reflect wise stewardship choices? If they haven’t, don’t give up - it’s never too late to change choices and actions.

26th Sunday after Pentecost • *Matthew 25:14-30*

There’s a lesson for each of us in the story Jesus tells. Whether we care to recognize them or not, each of us has been given one or more gifts (abilities, skills, talents). It seems to me that one of the points Jesus is trying to make here is that it’s what we do with our gifts that will determine how God deals with us. So, what are you doing with what you’ve been given?

Last Sunday after Pentecost: The Reign of Christ • *Matthew 25:31-46*

Stewardship can be defined very simply as “taking care.” In today’s gospel passage Jesus talks about people who take care of other people, namely those who are hungry or thirsty, those who are foreigners, those who lack clothing, as well as those who are sick or imprisoned. Thinking about that list, you might want to ask yourself: what kind of a steward am I?



Year B

First Sunday of Advent • *Mark 13:24-37*

As we begin a new church year, Jesus reminds us that we are the ones whom God has left in charge; we are the stewards; and we are told to stay alert, carrying out the tasks entrusted to us.

Second Sunday of Advent • *Mark 1:1-8*

John called on the people to undergo a “change of heart.” The faithful steward is one who has undergone such a change.

Third Sunday of Advent • *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

John’s ministry and mission was to point to “one more powerful.” How do we, as good stewards, allow our lives to point to this same One?

Fourth Sunday of Advent • *Luke 1:26-38*

Mary’s openness to God’s dream for her allows her to respond with: “Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” As a faithful steward could you say these words?

Christmas • *Luke 2:1-14; Luke 2:8-20; John 1:1-18*

God gives us the gift of God’s very self. What more can one give to show one’s love, to show one’s generosity? How do we show our love and generosity, as creatures made in God’s likeness?

Christmas 1 • *Luke 2:22-40*

Anna and Simeon find themselves unexpectedly rewarded and blessed for their years of faithful obedience to God. God’s blessings come to us in many unexpected ways!

Christmas 2 • *John 1:(1-9) 10-18*

Jesus, the light of the world, helps us see, even in the darkness. How does my life, as a faithful steward, help this light to shine in our world?

The Epiphany of the Lord • *Matthew 2:1-12*

Imagine the difficulties these people went through on their journey to Jesus! And yet, even after all the difficulties, they still offer very costly gifts. To what lengths would you go to show how you feel about Jesus?

Baptism of the Lord • *Mark 1:4-11*

“I fully approve of you,” are the words Jesus hears when he is baptized. Do you think that a faithful steward can expect to hear similar words at some point in their journey?

2nd Sunday after Epiphany • *John 1:43-51*

“Come and see,” says Philip to Nathanael. As those who have experienced something Jesus, how do we “take care” by sharing and spreading the word of our experience?

3rd Sunday after Epiphany • *Mark 1:14-20*

Do you hear Jesus calling you? Where does he want you to be? What does he want you to do? As one who wants to be a faithful steward, how do you respond?

4th Sunday after Epiphany • *Mark 1:21-28*

The actions of Jesus seem to have a remarkable effect, and “his fame began to spread.” What kind of effect do our actions, as stewards, have on those around us?

Presentation of the Lord • *Luke 2:22-40*

Mary and Joseph, obedient to the Law of their faith, bring the child Jesus and present him in the temple. A faithful steward's life is marked by similar acts of obedience.

5th Sunday after Epiphany • *Mark 1:29-39*

Jesus' life is filled by many, who make demands on his time. In spite of these heavy demands, he still makes time to be alone in prayer. As a faithful steward, does my life follow his pattern of prayer and action?

6th Sunday after Epiphany • *Mark 1:40-45*

People come to Jesus “from everywhere.” Question: Just how far would you be willing to go, in order to be with Jesus?

7th Sunday after Epiphany • *Mark 2:1-12*

“We've never seen the likes of this!” That's what people said about Jesus' actions. Do you think anyone might say similar words about our actions as faithful stewards?

Last Sunday after Epiphany — The Transfiguration • *Mark 9:2-9*

Peter “didn't know how else to respond,” says today's passage. As a faithful steward, how do you think you might respond?

Ash Wednesday • *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

“Your heart will always be where your treasure is,” says Jesus. Where is the faithful steward's heart going to be found then? Is that where your heart is?

1st Sunday in Lent • *Mark 1:9-15*

“Change your ways, and put your trust in the good news,” Jesus tells us. What things might need to be changed around in your life so that you can become a better steward?

2nd Sunday in Lent • *Mark 8:31-38*

Jesus reprimands Peter for not thinking in God's terms. A faithful steward spends some of their time trying to discern God's terms, so that they can act accordingly.

3rd Sunday in Lent • *John 2:13-22*

Jesus displays anger at the way in which people have used his “Father's house” for their own selfish ends. How do we, as faithful stewards, respond, when we perceive injustice in our world?

4th Sunday in Lent • *John 3:14-21*

Darkness or light — Jesus tells us that if we live our lives as faithful stewards our deeds will shine out, as we reflect God's dream. How much light do your deeds give off?

5th Sunday of Lent • *John 12:20-33*

Want God to honour you? "No problem," says Jesus. The faithful steward will be found wherever Jesus is. Care to join him?

Sunday of the Passion, with the Liturgy of the Palms • *Mark 11:1-11, Mark 14:1-15:47*

Today's gospel gives us a good chunk of THE STORY, which we call our story. How much of THE STORY is familiar to you? A faithful steward has more than a passing knowledge of it.

Easter Day • *Mark 16:1-8*

"Jesus isn't here," says the messenger to the women. "Where is he?" we might join in asking. He's to be found wherever there are faithful stewards.

2nd Sunday of Easter • *John 20:19-31*

Thomas wasn't afraid to express his doubts. Does that mean the he was any less of a follower? I think not. The faithful steward is one who acknowledges and works through their doubt, rather than simply ignore it.

3rd Sunday of Easter • *Luke 24:36b-48*

"You are witnesses to this," says Jesus. A faithful steward is one who has experienced the story of Jesus in their own life, and is able to share it with others.

4th Sunday of Easter • *John 10:11-18*

Jesus is, as he tells us here, "the good shepherd." His sheep recognize his voice, he goes on to say. Heard Jesus speaking to you lately?

5th Sunday of Easter • *John 15:1-8*

Jesus is "the true vine." Branches wanting to produce fruit need to stay firmly attached to him. The faithful steward produces much fruit by remaining attached to this vine.

6th Sunday of Easter • *John 15:9-17*

"This is my command to you: You are to love each other." A faithful steward takes up this challenge on a daily basis, knowing that it's not an easy thing, but that this is what Jesus asks of them.

7th Sunday of Easter • *John 17:6-19*

"Keep them under your protection," asks Jesus of God. What's he asking? He's asking God to care for us, to practice stewardship, with us. How good are we at taking care?

Day of Pentecost • *John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15*

“The spirit of truth will guide you,” Jesus tells his followers. As faithful stewards, do we ask for and follow the Spirit’s guidance in our day-to-day interactions?

Trinity Sunday • *John 3:1-17*

“God sent this son into the world not to condemn the world but to rescue the world through him.” Are you part of God’s rescue team? A faithful steward cooperates with God in bringing God’s dream to fruition.

2nd Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 4:35-41*

Would you get into a boat if you expected stormy weather? A faithful steward gets in, trusting that God will keep their journey safe.

3rd Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 5:21-43*

“Have faith,” says Jesus to Jairus. To the bleeding woman he says, “you’ve been healed because of your faith.” How do you, as a steward, live a life that shows your faith?

St. Peter and St. Paul • *John 21:15-19*

Three times Jesus asks Peter to “take care” of his lambs, his sheep, and Peter feels hurt. How many times do you think Jesus has asked you to “take care,” to be a faithful steward?

4th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 6:1-13*

“They set out and announced that people should turn their lives around.” We can’t expect others to turn their lives around, unless ours is too. Have you allowed yours to be?

5th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 6:14-29*

What can a steward learn from this story? Maybe not to act or speak too quickly, but to allow the Spirit to guide our thoughts and actions.

6th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 6:30-34, 53-56*

Imagine, being so famous that people are always wanting you! Small wonder Jesus invites his followers to “an isolated place,” where they can “recharge their batteries.” A faithful steward knows to take time and do this.

7th Sunday after Pentecost • *John 6:1-21*

Jesus teaches his disciples an important stewardship lesson — perhaps THE most important of all: God’s abundant generosity will be found even when things seem extremely meager!

8th Sunday after Pentecost • *John 6:24-35*

Jesus talks about satisfying individuals’ hunger and thirst. Sorry Coke; sorry McDonald’s — a faithful steward knows WHO can truly satisfy!

9th Sunday after Pentecost • *John 6:35, 41-51*

Want to live forever? That’s what Jesus offers to those who accept him into their lives. A good steward not only knows this, but is able to share it with other “hungry” people.

10th Sunday after Pentecost • *John 6:51-58*

One translation of the word “manna” is “bread.” “Bread” has been used as a slang word for “money.” Kind of gives a whole different slant to this passage, doesn’t it. Having money won’t allow you to live forever. But, having Jesus (“the bread of heaven”) will!

11th Sunday after Pentecost • *John 6:56-69*

“This teaching is too offensive” we read in today’s gospel. A faithful steward knows that there will be times when things might seem offensive and still “hangs in there.”

12th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

Quoting the prophet Isaiah, Jesus reminds them that: “this people honours me with their lips, but their heart stays away from me.” It kind of frightens me that he might be able to say the same about me!

13th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 7:24-37*

One of the things Jesus seems to be able to do, with a variety of people, is to take care of them. A faithful steward is one who also takes care — of others, of self, of the environment, of . . . (you name it).

14th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 8:27-38*

“If any of you are ashamed of me and my message,” says Jesus. The faithful steward shows, in both word and action, pride in being a follower of Jesus.

Holy Cross Day • *John 3:13-17*

“God loved the people of this world so much that God gave . . .” A faithful steward recognizes how much God continues to lavish gifts on them, and responds with gratitude and generosity.

15th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 9:30-37*

Jesus reminds his followers that they need to be able to see and accept him in many guises. A faithful steward seeks and serves Jesus in all people.

16th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 9:38-50*

What a heavy burden for a faithful steward to bear! It frightens me to think of how easily I might cause someone to sin.

17th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 10:2-16*

“Let the children come to me . . . after all, God’s domain belongs to people like that.” A faithful steward aims at and works towards simplicity — in all aspects of their life.

18th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 10:17-31*

This passage isn’t very “good news” for those of us who live in this part of the world. Whether we care to accept it or not, we are among the “wealthy”, and do need to be even more vigilant as stewards.

Thanksgiving • *Matthew 6:25-33*

God provides - not only for small birds, but for us too. Jesus reminds us of God's extravagant bounty towards all creation. A faithful steward knows and practices genuine gratitude.

19th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 10:35-45*

The faithful steward realizes that their calling in this world is not to be "number one," but rather the one who serves others, as Jesus did.

20th Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 10:46-52*

Jesus gives this man his sight. And how does he respond? By following Jesus on the road. A faithful steward is one who sees Jesus and follows down the road he travels.

21st Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 12:28-34*

Love God; love your neighbour; love yourself; a good steward knows how to live this out in the midst of all the demands life seems to make.

All Saints • *John 11:32-44*

Jesus said: "I know that you always answer my prayers." A faithful steward shows this same kind of attitude in how they live out their life.

22nd Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 12:38-44*

Talk about all show and no action! Which would you say shows they are faithful stewards in these two short stories? Which would you want to be?

23rd Sunday after Pentecost • *Mark 13:1-8*

"Don't let yourself be misled," warns Jesus. The faithful steward knows that God's timetable isn't the same as the one we might like to adopt.

The Reign of Christ • *John 18:33-37*

"So you are a king!" said Pilate. A faithful steward recognizes that the sovereignty of Jesus goes beyond any earthly boundaries.



Year C

Advent 1 • *Luke 21:25-36*

One of the themes in today's gospel invites us, as we begin a new Church year, to be a people who are different, set apart. How do our words and (more importantly) our actions, set an example to others that we are living a stewardship life?

Advent 2 • *Luke 3:1-6*

John the Baptist calls on the people of his day to prepare themselves. He calls for a change of heart that will help them be better prepared to "see the salvation of God." Do we also need to change our hearts?

Advent 3 • *Luke 3:7-18*

John used his gift of preaching to exhort people to take care of others, to treat others with the respect and dignity due to all God's creation. How are we using our gifts to do the same?

Advent 4 • *Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)*

Mary and Elizabeth, two women who assisted in helping God's dream for the world become reality. What are we doing this day to help the dream come to fruition?

Christmas • *Luke 2:1-20, Luke 2:8-20, John 1:1-14*

This day God has given us one of the greatest gifts possible. What do we do with this gift the other 364 days of the year?

Christmas 1 • *Luke 2:41-52*

Imagine the horror and panic in Mary and Joseph as they search for their lost child! As his primary care givers, they are extremely concerned for his well being. As God's stewards, as God's care givers for all entrusted to us, how do we express our concern?

Christmas 2 • *John 1:(1-9), 10-18*

Jesus, the light of the world, helps us see, even in the darkness. How does my life, as a faithful steward, help this light to shine in our world?

The Baptism of the Lord • *Luke 3:15-17, 21-22*

At his baptism, Jesus feels affirmed in the choices he has made to live as God's faithful child. How often do we think about the covenant made at our own baptism to live as God's faithful ones?

2nd Sunday after Epiphany • *John 2:1-11*

Not only does the water change to wine, but the best wine at the wedding party! Jesus shows how using our gifts can have results that are greater than we might imagine.

3rd Sunday after Epiphany • *Luke 4:14-21*

The role of the steward has not changed over the centuries. Jesus claims that the same task which was Isaiah's is also his. And even to this day the task remains the same: to care for everything and everyone.

4th Sunday after Epiphany • *Luke 4:21-30*

This passage is disturbing, for Jesus tells us that those on the “inside” aren’t necessarily the ones God chooses to touch in some way. How open are we (‘the insiders’) to receiving God through someone on ‘the outside’?

5th Sunday after Epiphany • *Luke 5:1-11*

Sometimes, as God’s stewards, we might feel that we’re being asked to do something which defies logic. And yet when we do it, as Simon and his partners did, we find the results truly astonishing.

6th Sunday after Epiphany • *Luke 6:17-26*

Being different, letting our words and actions speak about a different kind of lifestyle than the one we see pushed at us on tv and the movies will, in the end, have its rewards.

Last Sunday after Epiphany (The Transfiguration) • *Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)*

Peter wants to set up tents, maybe so that he and the others can somehow physically hold on to the “high” they have just experienced. But being a steward demands that we, as did Jesus, come down from the mountain top and deal with the everyday challenges of life.

Ash Wednesday • *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

Living a steward’s lifestyle involves walking a fine line between saying and doing things simply to impress others and just doing things simply.

Lent 1 • *Luke 4:1-13*

Being a steward, following the example of Jesus, calls on us to make decisions and choices that may fly in the face of contemporary culture. This requires strength and discipline which is available to each of us, if we ask for it.

Lent 2 • *Luke 13:31-35*

“Can’t you see,” asks Jesus in today’s gospel, “your house is being abandoned?” As stewards, what are we doing to ensure that God’s “house” is not being abandoned?

Lent 3 • *Luke 13:1-9*

The fig tree which bears no fruit is useless to its owner. However, the gardener sees value in it and wants to give it one more opportunity to produce. Are your gifts lying dormant or are you nurturing them into production?

Lent 4 • *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

As faithful, life-long stewards, do we truly rejoice when a sister or brother comes back, or do we feel that they need to pay a price before we really make them feel welcome?

Lent 5 • *John 12:1-8*

One of the questions today’s gospel asks me is: what is my motivation in being a steward? Am I truly interested in taking care of others, or am I just worried about myself?

Sunday of the Passion, with the Liturgy of the Palms • *Luke 19:28-40, Luke 22:14-23:56*

Today's gospel stories are filled with highs and lows. Jesus, the perfect steward, gives us an example of what it means to really care for something or someone.

Easter Day • *John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12*

The gloom and the sadness of the last few days is replaced today. Even when things seem their darkest, God finds a way to burst through! Even though the clouds may hide it, the sun is always shining!

2nd Sunday of Easter • *John 20:19-31*

"God sent me," says Jesus. "Now, I'm sending you." As those entrusted to take care of the story of our Faith, we need to find ways of sharing this story with others with whom we come into contact.

3rd Sunday of Easter • *John 21:1-19*

Over and over again, Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" Would our actions let Jesus know that we love him? Or, has our love for Jesus been replaced by our love for things of this world?

4th Sunday of Easter • *John 10:22-30*

Jesus tells the people that those who belong to him recognize his voice. How do we recognize the voice of Jesus today in our own lives, and in the life of our Church?

5th Sunday of Easter • *John 13:31-35*

"Everyone will recognize you as my followers — if you love each other." How does the world recognize us as the followers of Jesus today? — where we work? — where we play? — wherever we happen to be?

6th Sunday of Easter • *John 14:23-29*

"The Holy Spirit will teach you and remind you of everything I told you." Ever feel like your life as a steward has lost its focus? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remember.

7th Sunday of Easter • *John 17:20-26*

Jesus prays: "Father, I want those you gave into my care to be with me . . ." Jesus, our steward, has left us an example of what it means to care, to be a steward.

Day of Pentecost • *John 14:8-17, (25-27)*

"The world isn't able to accept this Spirit," Jesus tells his followers. Why? Because the world is too preoccupied with things that have little or no lasting value. What about us?

1st Sunday after Pentecost — Trinity Sunday • *John 16:12-15*

Father, Son, and Spirit: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer — each with a different function, yet each tied to the other. Each of us has a different function/gift, yet we too are tied to one another through the Three-in-One and One-in-Three.

2nd Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 7:36-8:3*

This lesson in hospitality, in taking care of those who come to us, begs the question: just how hospitable are we when someone shows up at our place of worship?

3rd Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 8:26-39*

This story poses many challenging questions to those who would be faithful stewards in our world. Questions like: What “demons” have we allowed into our lives, demons which take our focus off God’s dream for the whole created order?

4th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 9:51-62*

The life of a steward isn’t for those who want it easy. It requires discipline and single-mindedness. Each of us can come up with some excuse or other as to why it’s not for us.

5th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 10:1-11, 16-20*

“Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.” Rewards and praise aren’t what motivate a steward’s lifestyle. Rather, a steward is guided by making choices for the sake of the kingdom.

6th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 10:25-37*

Taking care, even of those we may not like, is one of the marks which sets a true steward apart.

7th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 10:38-42*

The life of a steward involves times of action, of doing, as well as times of inaction, of listening. Preferring/enjoying one over the other may be a sign that we need to rearrange our lives.

8th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 11:1-13*

As God’s loved child you have been given a lot of gifts. Are you using them to help God’s dream, God’s reign, become a reality?

9th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 12:13-21*

A stern warning to those who are concerned only for the own physical welfare! A steward is called to balance their own needs and wants with those of God’s dream.

10th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 12:32-40*

Earthly wealth and possessions aren’t necessarily signs that a person is living a stewardship lifestyle. Rather, as Jesus advises, don’t get all wrapped up with possessions.

11th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 12:49-56*

Accepting the call to live as true stewards is going to be tough! We might even discover that members of our own family can’t accept such a lifestyle.

12th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 13:10-17*

As stewards of all that God has given us, including Sabbath rest, how does our use of time let others see that we actually mean what we say, that we do what we talk about?

13th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 14:1, 7-14*

Jesus reminds us that the calling of a steward is to take care of those from whom we can expect no reward. This is not an easy task for many of us.

14th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 14:25-33*

Jesus seems to talk about possessions a great deal. To be his disciple, to be a steward, requires saying good-bye to everything which we think belongs to us.

15th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 15:1-10*

The Pharisees and the scribes (the “elite”) grumble and complain that Jesus welcomes and eats with “sinners.” How do we practice hospitality when someone different shows up at the Lord’s Table?

16th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 16:1-13*

It’s impossible to have the same level of loyalty for two “masters.” As a steward, as one who takes care, in which do you have more loyalty: God, or a bank account?

17th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 16:19-31*

What will it take? How are we going to get the message that the choices we make and the lifestyle we adopt will have far-reaching consequences?

18th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 17:5-10*

A steward: one who has “done only what [s/he] ought to have done.” Can we have the humility to make such a statement and actually meant it?

Harvest Thanksgiving • *John 6:25-35*

Jesus assures his followers that they never need to be afraid of scarcity. As stewards, do we live a life which reflects our belief in the abundance of God?

19th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 17:11-19*

Each and every day we are given the opportunity to witness and maybe even be part of some miracle. Do we see these miracles and give God thanks for them?

20th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 18:1-8*

Living out a steward’s lifestyle requires a lot of persistence. It’s easy to get discouraged, to “lose heart.” But, we carry on, knowing that God is faithful and can be trusted!

21st Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 18:9-14*

A lesson on humility and judging others. A steward is one who uses their gifts, taking care not to compare what they do with others.

22nd Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 19:1-10*

What a generous move by Zacchaeus!

His encounter with Jesus moves him to respond with real benevolence. Has your encounter with Jesus had the same effect?

All Saints • *Luke 6:20-36*

Jesus gives many clues as to what a steward's life will look like. How many of them would describe the way you live your life?

23rd Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 20:27-38*

How will talking about hypothetical situations help God's kingdom/God's dream become a reality? As stewards, we mustn't let ourselves get sidetracked.

24th Sunday after Pentecost • *Luke 21:5-19*

Jesus speaks about the how the beautiful temple will one day be destroyed. As stewards who are called to care for buildings where we gather, are we making the best use of these facilities?

Last Sunday after Pentecost — The Reign of Christ • *Luke 23:33-43*

The Reign of Christ will be ushered in when we truly acknowledge Jesus as Lord of our lives, and allow ourselves to be directed by him and try to live as faithful stewards.



Resources for Mission
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