

# Stewardship Messages September 2019

**August 31/September 1**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

***“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.”*** Luke 14:13-14

It can be hard to think about giving without expecting something in return. Even when we give to charity, there is often an expectation of a “reward” of some type. However, as Christian stewards, we should remember that our true reward awaits us in heaven. Our reward is not our name in an event program, a raffle ticket for a chance to win a big prize, a dinner, etc.

**September 7/8**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

***“In the same way, every one of you who does not renounce all of his possessions cannot be my disciple.”*** Luke 14:33

This statement is hard to grasp at first, but it goes to the very meaning of stewardship. “We cannot give up all of our possessions. We need them to live,” we might say. What we do need to renounce is our belief that our possessions actually belong to us. At the heart of stewardship is the knowledge that ‘everything that we have is a gift – on loan – from God.’ He has given us those gifts not only for our own use, but so that we can help others also. When we see our possessions as gifts and use them as such, we are disciples.

**September 14/15**

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

***“Everything I have is yours.”*** Luke 15:31

Like the father in today’s passage, God cares for his children. But, further than man ever can, our Heavenly Father gives us the chance to enter the eternal kingdom. However, like the prodigal son, we can be caught up in materialism – in things, in money, in societal status. However, these don’t have lasting value. What God gives us does have unending value.

**September 22/23**

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

***“No servant can have two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”*** Luke 16:13

In Hebrew, mammon means money. Do you put money and possessions before God? Sharing what we have – money, talent, time – increases our trust that God will provide for our needs.

**September 28/29**

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

***“... remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, where as you are tormented. Moreover between us and you a great chasm is established ...”*** Luke 16:25-26

God created the world for all to enjoy. However, humans have created a great chasm between the rich and the poor. This story of the rich man and Lazarus tells us we can bridge the gap between those who have much and those who do not. If we do not, we could find ourselves on the wrong side of the divide in the life to come.