

Brother Steward

Lay Reader Message

Can I Be Trusted with Much?

Oswald Chambers wrote, “Not every man can carry a full cup. Sudden elevation frequently leads to pride and a fall. The most exciting test of all to survive is prosperity.” This quote provides a clear warning: Those who become prosperous are also very likely to become filled with pride. Pride can cause inflated egos and self-worthiness. Agur, a writer of proverbs, gave us this warning: “. . . give me neither poverty nor riches but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’ or I may become poor and steal and so dishonor the name of my God” (Proverbs 30:8-9). When our bills are paid and we have money in the bank, we may feel secure and depend only on ourselves. In speaking about the curse of success, someone once said, “Ninety-nine people out of 100 can handle adversity whereas only one out of 100 can handle prosperity.” The wealth that many seek can be more of a curse than a blessing.

God blesses us with work and the ability to earn our incomes. Unfortunately, we may foolishly begin to believe that we are solely responsible for the success we’ve achieved. As Moses wrote, “*You may say to yourself, ‘My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.’ But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth . . .*” (Deuteronomy 8:18). We should understand that only by God’s grace are we able to have a place to call home, a savings account, and a retirement plan. God’s Word is clear that we are managers, not owners. “*The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it*” (Psalm 24:1).

Even though it is difficult to pass the test with money, the Holy Spirit, working through the Word, enables us to understand that all we are and have are gifts from God. Joseph provides us a good example of stewardship. Separated from his home and family, he still trusted God and feared him, refusing to give in to the temptations that came with the position God enabled him to fill. As second in command in Egypt, one of the most powerful kingdoms of his day, he retained his humility, realizing that he was only the manager of Egypt’s resources. But he managed those resources well, working at it “*with all [his] heart, as working for the Lord, not for men*” (Colossians 3:23). Just as God empowered Joseph in his stewardship, so he does for us today, whether our resources are vast, as were Joseph’s, or small.

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Thanksgiving Care & Share Plan

Back in the middle ages of monastery life, we never had big holiday sales, discounts, buy-one-get-one-free days; unless the King won a war or the Abbot got a promotion.

Today it's different and a bit easier to feed the hungry and support our missions.

Here's the plan: Over the next few weeks when stores are giving big discounts or you get a buy-one-get-one-free deal, just take a dollar or two from your savings on a free loaf of bread, or jar of peanut butter, and put it in our offertory basket. We have a lot of people who need help with medical bills, utility bills, groceries, job search, counseling, tuition, kid's clothes, and they live right here in our community. What you give to the offertory collection helps support our ministries and gives some relief to the needy. This Care & Share Plan works wonders. And giving thanks is good stewardship. Support it with an extra dollar this week.

God Bless.



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Let's Give a Hand for Our Ministries!

It's easy to take the people who work tirelessly behind the scenes for granted! These people make it all work.

This week it is important to celebrate the "Good Works" of our ministries and all those who labor in them. Here are just some of the things they do:

They prepare groceries for the hungry,

Find shelter for the homeless,

Visit the sick,

Bring The Eucharist to hospitals and nursing homes,

Counsel the depressed and addicted,

Beautify the church,

Restore homes for the aged,

And, help the unemployed.

And finally, we should celebrate our generous parishioners who support our ministries through their pledges and donations. Let's give them a hand too!

God Bless.

*Thank
You*



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Alive in the Spirit of Prayer!

Years ago our Abbot said, “Prayer can move mountains” and adding a grin, “and elections too.” “So,” he said, “be diligent, thoughtful, and true to your convictions. And as a guide, he said when you consider a choice listen to God’s voice.” And with that he posted on the Monastery wall the following:

Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

And with that he said, “Now go out with a prayer on your lips and a ballot in your hand, and cast your lot!”

