

Saturday, March 13

Stewardship Principle

Readings: Psalm 32  
Exodus 32:7-14  
Luke 15:1-10

Prayer: *Lord God, You alone are the source of every gift, of the vast array of our universe, and of the mystery of each human life. We praise You and we thank You for Your great power and Your tender, faithful Love.*

*Everything we are and everything we have is Your gift, and after having created us, You have given us into the keeping of Your Son, Jesus Christ.*

*Fill our hearts with Christ's truth and our hearts with His love, that in His Spirit we may be bonded together into a community of faith, a parish family, a caring people.*

*In the Name and Spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent and our material gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus. Amen.*<sup>42</sup>

Focal Verse: "And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people." Exodus 32:14

Reflection:

... consider the law of *tithing*, (Leviticus 27:30-32) which has often been considered to be of fundamental importance in the scriptural teaching on Christian stewardship. The practice of paying tithes can be traced to hoary antiquity, at least as far back as the days of Abraham and Melchizedek, (Genesis 14:20) but it has lost none of its usefulness as a practical aid to regularity in giving. As such it deserves to be encouraged. And it is just plain common sense, requiring no help from theology, to point out that the church would multiply its income and thus be enabled to make a vast expansion of its operations, if all its members were to contribute 10 per cent of their earnings to the work of the church. But tithing assumes theological significance when the motives underlying the practice are examined.

The tithe, forgiveness and observance of the Lord's day come into their right Christian use when they are freely and joyfully practiced by Christians who do not give their Lord only one dollar out of ten or one day out of seven but whose whole life is stewardship.<sup>43</sup>

**2**

**Obey responsibly**

to glorify God as a faithful proclamation of God's word. We acknowledge our faith and show our faith in the gospel for the glory of God and for the building up of the body of Christ. This takes courage. It involves our life-long obedience, including the ways we treat our families, others, and ourselves.

**"... you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ."**  
2 Corinthians 9:13

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

<sup>42</sup> Archdiocese of Philadelphia, from the publication, "A Treasury of Private Prayers For the Christian Steward," compiled by the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

<sup>43</sup> T. A. Kantonen, A Theology for Christian Stewardship, © 1956, Muhlenberg Press, p. 20, 24.