

Wednesday March 17

Readings: Psalm 53
 2 Kings 4:1-7
 Luke 9:10-17

Prayer: *Heavenly Father, you give us all that we need and much more. From you bountiful goodness you sustain our lives. For all we continue to receive, we offer our prayer of thanks. In Jesus name. Amen.*

Focal Verse: “Now the wife of a member of the company of prophets cried to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead; and you know that your servant feared the Lord, but a creditor has come to take my two children as slaves.” Elisha said to her, “What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?” She answered, “Your servant has nothing in the house, except a jar of oil.” He said, “Go outside, borrow vessels from all your neighbors, empty vessels and not just a few. Then go in, and shut the door behind you and your children, and start pouring into all these vessels; when each is full, set it aside.” So she left him and shut the door behind her and her children; they kept bringing vessels to her, and she kept pouring. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, “Bring me another vessel.” But he said to her, “There are no more.” Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, “Go sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your children can live on the rest.”” 2 Kings 4:1-7

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Share abundantly

as we have received. The purpose of these gifts is for the good of the community of God. We give to build up the body of Christ. We use and share our gifts for the benefit of all.

“... and God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”
 2 Corinthians 8:3

Reflection: The stewards of God’s universal grace are, it is true, given much; but because what they are given is intended for a much wider company, much will be required of them as well. They are a means to something greater, not (as with the idea of an elite) an end in themselves.

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

Although the steward of God (or Christ), like the stewards of earthly lords, can claim nothing for him-or herself, that steward is not merely an outsider – hired help, so to speak. Rather, the steward participates in the very “household of God.” As such, the steward is called and enabled to share “this grace” (“This grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ.” Ephesians 3:8) with others, and to bring them in turn into God’s household.⁴⁹

⁴⁹ Hall, Douglas John, the steward: a Biblical symbol come of age, Wipf and Stock Publishing, p. 36 and 38.