

Thursday March 18

Stewardship Principle

Readings: Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:1-7
Philippians 2:19-24

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.⁵⁰

6 **Give proportionately**

is our way of giving in relation to our abundance. We are to give according to our "means," not according to an income or a budget.

"If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have."
2 Corinthians 8:12

Focal Verse: "But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

Reflection: The Bible always calls us to percentage giving. Nowhere in the Bible will you find something like, "Give fifty dollars." The language is always, "Give in proportion to the blessings you have received." Those who have much wealth are expected to give proportionately. Those who have little wealth are also expected to give proportionately. The tithe, or ten percent, is obviously the best example of the Bible's teaching of proportional giving.

Percentage giving is a two-edged sword. For those who don't have large financial resources, percentage giving is a word of great comfort. Such people can know that in God's eyes their "small" gift is not small at all, but incredibly generous. For those who have greater financial resources, percentage giving calls them to account if their gift is larger in dollars but still quite small in percentage.⁵¹

- What do you hear?
- How does it make you feel?
- Toward what are you being drawn?
- What do you sense you should do?

⁵⁰ Archdiocese of Philadelphia, from the publication, "A Treasury of Private Prayers For the Christian Steward," compiled by the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

⁵¹ Charles Lane, Ask, Thank, Tell, © 2006, Augsburg Fortress, p. 51-52.