

St. Luke Parish – Disciples and Stewards – Winter – Week 3 – Time, Talent, & Treasure

Called by Jesus Christ to bear much fruit in hope and trust

“To a poor man, however, be generous; keep him not waiting for your alms... help the needy, and in their want, do not send them away empty-handed. Spend your money for your brother and friend, and hide it not under a stone to perish; dispose of your treasure as the Most High commands, for that will profit you more than the gold.” Sir 29:8-11 *“All you who are thirsty, come to the water! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy?”* Is 55:1-2

“No one can serve 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 (wealth or property).” Mt 6:24 *“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.”* Mt 13:22 *“He ... observed how the crowd put money into the treasury.... ‘I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.’”* Mc 12:41a.43b.44

“We brought nothing into the world... shall not be able to take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that. Those who want to be rich are falling into... a trap and... foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some...in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and...pierced themselves with many pains.” 1 Tim 6:7-10

“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.... There was no needy person among them... those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.” Acts 4:32-35 *Later, a collection was taken in Greece for those in need in Jerusalem. 1 Cor 16:1-4 They gave generously, even beyond their means, to aid their brothers and sisters in need in Jerusalem, and considered it a privilege to participate in this holy work of God. 2 Cor 8:1-15*

Taking an Inventory of my Stewardship

1. I “earn my keep”: I contribute at home for my lodgings pay my way or share must do more
2. I have a foothold on planet Earth: I keep my own home share household tasks must do more
3. I “cultivate the garden” as God commanded Adam and Eve – I do something to care for the environment:
 grounds trees air water I compost I recycle I reuse old stuff
4. I try to use and buy less, as I need I try to help others in need around me I critique ads & trends
5. I participate by my labor in God’s ongoing work of Creation: I try to be a good neighbor for others;
at work / school / home/family I try to make the climate more just, more kind & considerate,
 more green or eco-friendly; I use natural materials; I advocate for proper care of animals.
6. I try to understand the origin and cause of inequities between individuals, families, cultures, nations:
 I speak to people who are different I critique motives / means behind ads I search the media
 I critique the marketplace I read articles and books I join discussions I share information
7. God entrusts Earth’s goods to us for our good, our families, others, for his Church and for his glory:
 I accept and try to live this truth I need help to understand and live this truth I will study it
8. I let God sanctify time in my life as a gift and keep holy the Lord’s Day by attending Sunday Liturgy:
 rarely occasionally monthly 1 to 3 times a month every Sunday
9. by putting aside work and worry, and by spending the day with family and friends, resting & playing:
 rarely occasionally monthly 1 to 3 times a month every Sunday
10. I plan and make my Sunday Offering a proportional, deliberate, generous sacrificial expression of gratitude and worship to God: rarely occasionally monthly 1 to 3 times a month every Sunday