

## Discipleship & Stewardship Summary

### The Kingdom of God is

ruled by God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;

governed by trust in God based in God's love and provident, solicitous care as experienced by the children of God in personal encounter with God especially through loving encounters with others.

The great gift from God the Father is eternal life beginning even now in his children by spiritual adoption lived out in faith through Baptism.

Children of God we are drawn to become disciples of Jesus – the Father points to Him saying “This is my Beloved Son, listen to Him, follow Him.” Mary at Cana also says to us as to the servants “Do whatever He (Jesus) tells you.” In Jesus we have a Master Teacher, Saviour & Lord.

#### IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD:

we are called to be good Stewards of God's abundant gifts of Time, Talent, & Treasure to receive the abundance of life Jesus offers.

We are called to be good Stewards of God's abundant gifts of:

**TIME** – the past elicits joy to remember God's mercy and forgiveness shown to us, to me.

**TIME** – the present elicits awe and wonder that in God we feel forever young and the present is unending, because my soul is immortal like God and so will my body be after the resurrection.

**TIME** – the future elicits hope in realizing that all time is in God's hands and He is master of the impossible and of time and offers us eternity....

**TALENT** – realizing all my talent and ability is from God stirs up eagerness to learn more, to try things – when I fail, to try again – and experience without fear the satisfaction of putting my gifts at the service of God and others....

### The Kingdom of this world is

ruled by the prince of this world, the Devil;

driven by fear generated by (1) the devil who stirs up people, groups, and organizations, (2) the world, its people, culture, and institutions, and (3) the flesh weakened by original sin.

Apart from God, in this world human beings are alone, isolated, ever searching for meaning though surrounded by people, however close.

Without Jesus to follow, we follow gurus, adopt religions, are driven by trends, overly impressed by bullies, taken with our own opinions or those of others, are afraid, become confused, are lost in the world, and as St Paul said, blown about by the winds of trickery and human deceit.

#### IN THE KINGDOM OF THIS WORLD:

everything around us is driven by the fear of loss and the impulse to get ahead of others and by accumulating to delay suffering and death.

Economic systems, the stock market, world governments, business...are all driven by fear:

The world torments us over our past, yet we are ever attracted to the past as to a better time.

In the world people become confused and frantic in the present, which seems ever running out and ironically ever elusive or insufficient. People are unable to be in or enjoy the present.

In the world, realization of our mortality and of the power and domination of others generates fear for the future and fear of the future.

In the world, people obsess about their talent, skills, ability, and experience – clinging to their accomplishments, which without realizing it isolates them in fear and sadness over the inescapable prospects of loss and aging....

## Discipleship & Stewardship Summary

**TREASURE** – In the Kingdom of God, I remember my parents’ love. Conceived in my mother’s womb, I was born stark naked. When I die they will strip me naked and do what needs to be done. I will take nothing with me, not even my own body. God designed my soul to contain and conserve every experience I have ever had – the entire person I am becoming – to carry me beyond death into God’s eternal realm where I will enter into eternal life and await the resurrection of the body when God will make our bodies immortal like Jesus at Easter. When Mary appears she looks 14 – she was at her best when she conceived the Son of God in her womb. Our appearance will be according to our best moment in God’s eyes.

### TO SUM UP....

In each of these life dimensions – time, talent, and treasure – God provide solutions to dispel worldly confusion and establish us firmly in his kingdom.

For **TIME** God told Adam and Eve, later his Chosen People through Moses, and now He tells us: “I give you 7 days. You may do all your work and tasks the other days. The 7<sup>th</sup> day belongs to Me. You must give it back to Me: worship Me, love your family, and rest, and I will set you free.

For **TALENT** God shows us in Jesus that the only remedy from the self-obsession of the world is to freely and generously put our talents at the service of others, and our grateful service draws us out of ourselves into self-forgetfulness and the joy and satisfaction of making the lives of others better.

For **TREASURE** God inspired his solution in Abraham and his Chosen People. Freedom from preoccupation over money and material goods comes from giving 10% or better for God’s work and to the poor and those in need. Have a look at what percentage of your income you now give and take what time you need to aim for 10% or better.

In the world, people obsess, worry, fret, envy, connive, manipulate, extort, and scheme over money, property, and material possessions.... Did you know that as a priest and pastor I am in danger of going to Hell when I die if I do not do as God asks of me and warn you about the dangers to your immortal soul and eternal life and happiness that you face in this world? Here is an important warning. Did you realize that obsession and worry over money and possessions can make you physically sick and kill you? That’s the truth, and this may be one of the hidden causes of cancer in some people. Even if not such behaviour will reduce people to objects and certainly poison your relationships.

### TO SUM UP....

The world, the flesh, and the devil conspire to tie us up into knots of emotional convulsions over our experience of time, talent, and treasure.

All our human strategies generate preoccupation over time past, present, and future, about our talents, skills, and accomplishments, and over what’s ahead. The world knows only greed, fear, competitiveness, domination, and seeking after influence, fame, power, and personal gain.

In the world people range from excessive preoccupation with getting credit for one’s accomplishments to outright theft of the goods and accomplishments of others. The world cannot conceive of freely giving over to the common good all that can bring personal gain.

Filled with worldly attitudes, when I first heard God’s proposal that we give back to Him 10% of our revenue for his work and those in need I freaked out. The world trusts only in itself and is suspicious of God. The world refuses to do as God prescribes because it seeks only affluence, pleasure, and comfort but abhors self-sacrifice.