

## The Everyday Stewardship Lenten Mission BY THE NUMBERS

### 6 Stewardship Parables of Jesus

1. Parable of the Talents *Matthew 25:14-25:30*
  - We cannot hide away our gifts. We are called to invest them, grow them to increase, and offer them back to God.
2. Parable of the Widow's Mite *Mark 12:41-44*
  - This life of stewardship requires sacrifice.
3. Parable of the Sower *Matthew 13:1-23*
  - We need to use discernment to determine how to give our gifts wisely.
4. Parable of the Mustard Seed *Matthew 13:31-32*
  - Sometimes it only takes a small amount of generosity to make a big difference.
5. Parable of the Pearl of Great Price *Matthew 13:44-46*
  - If we can overcome fear, a lack of trust, or any obstacle that prevents us from giving it all to God, the reward is greater than we can imagine.
6. Parable of the Good Samaritan *Luke 10:25-37*
  - We are called to give no matter the cost.

### 3 Convictions of US Bishop's Pastoral Letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*

1. **The Challenge** – We are called to a mature discipleship where we answer the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost.
2. **The Choice** – We are called to a way of life, not a series of actions.
3. **The Vision** – By living this way of life we find ourselves transformed, and in turn, help to transform our faith community and the world around us.

### 6 Characteristics of an Everyday Steward

1. We are called to be MINDFUL.
2. We are called to be PRAYERFUL.
3. We are called to be GRATEFUL.
4. We are called to be GRACIOUS.
5. We are called to be COMMITTED.
6. We are called to be ACCOUNTABLE.

**Begin the day with Direction of Intention of St. Francis De Sales**

My God, I give you this day.

I offer you, now, all of the good that I shall do  
and I promise to accept, for love of you,  
all of the difficulty that I shall meet.

Help me to conduct myself during this day  
in a manner pleasing to you. Amen.

**End day with Suspice Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola**

Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,  
my memory, my understanding  
and my entire will,

All I have and call my own.

You have given all to me.

To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will.

Give me only your love and your grace.

That is enough for me. Amen.

**More great stewardship prayers...**

**Prayer for Generosity (St. Ignatius of Loyola)**

Lord, teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve;

to give and not to count the cost,

to fight and not to heed the wounds,

to toil and not to seek for rest,

to labor and not to ask for reward,

save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.

**Complete Trust in God (St. Francis De Sales)**

Do not look forward to the trials and crosses of this life with dread  
and fear. Rather, look to them with confidence that, as they arise,  
God, to Whom you belong, will deliver you from them.

He has guided and guarded you thus far in life. Do you but hold  
fast to His dear Hand and He will lead you safely through all trials.

Whenever you cannot stand, He will carry you lovingly in His arms.

Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow.

The same Eternal Father who cares for you today  
will take good care of you tomorrow and every day of your life.

Either He will shield you from suffering or He will give you the unfailing strength

to bear it. Be at peace then and put aside all useless thoughts,

all vain dreads and all anxious imaginations.