

RADICAL STEWARDSHIP: THE WAY OF A DISCIPLE

A good way to evaluate how we are living as disciples is to examine how we are spending our time, talents, and financial resources. How much time do we spend in prayer each day, deepening our relationship with the Lord? How are we using our talents and financial resources to help bring God's love and provision to others—in our families, workplaces, parishes, communities, and even across the globe?

For the last few weeks, as we have traveled with Jesus and His disciples through the Gospel of Luke, we've learned several key lessons about discipleship. Through the story of the Good Samaritan, we learned that loving our neighbor goes beyond being civil to those we know, like, or agree with. Jesus calls us to a far more radical self-giving love and service to all God's people. Last week, through the story of Martha and Mary, Jesus taught us that we can only serve others with a peaceful and joy-filled attitude if we are serving out of a love that comes from prioritizing our time in prayer—at the feet of Our Lord. This Sunday, Jesus teaches the disciples, and us, how to pray and how to trust and love Our Father as He does. In next Sunday's Gospel, Jesus will warn us about the danger of greedily storing up our riches while so many are lacking the basic necessities.

People often ask, "How much of my time and what percent of my money do I give? How much is enough?" We tend to think in terms of "my time" and "my money," but Jesus calls us to a more radical way of thinking. All we are and all we have is pure gift from God. We are merely stewards of those gifts. What if we lived with our hands in a wide-open posture, ready and willing to receive gratefully and give generously? What if we were able to make the Prayer of St. Ignatius*, the *Suscipe* (Latin for "receive"), our prayer?

"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 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." —Prayer of St. Ignatius

*See page 8 for more about St. Ignatius

