

Stewardship Sunday: (Stewardship) Model Christian and Judgement:

Can I be a 'model Christian' that others can follow and imitate me? We live in a world of hero worship. For many, movie/ music stars, sports stars or models appear like heroes/idols, who have millions of followers. You may wonder to find that stars like Michael Jaxon/ Madonna/ Kim Kader Shean etc. had millions of fans, despite of what they accomplished/ way they lived.

St. Paul: "we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you so that you might imitate us". He worked night and day, for the Lord, and not to burden anyone. How can we be a 'model' for others in faith?

Gospel of fury and destruction: God works through many events and signs to purify and renew us in hope and to help us set our hearts more firmly on him and him alone. The signs which God uses are meant to point us to a higher spiritual truth and reality of his kingdom that endures for eternity.

The Jewish people took great pride in their temple, a marvel of the ancient world. To their great dismay, Jesus foretold the destruction of their great temple at Jerusalem, which took place in AD 70. It was a strong warning of God's spiritual judgment. Jesus' prophecy was a two-edged sword: because it pointed not only to *God's judgment*, but also to *his saving action and mercy*.

Sometimes we don't recognize the moral crisis and spiritual conflict of the age in which we live, until something "*shakes us up*" to the reality of this present condition. God reminds us that a future judgment awaits every individual who lives on this earth. *The reward for doing what is right* and the penalty for rejecting God and His grace, experienced in this present life - but they are sure to come in the day of final judgment.

Stewardship Campaign-2025: “God’s Distributors” / 34th Sunday

Once, there was a terrible natural disaster in an African country. People from all over the world started sending help. A big donor group in USA collected food, clothes and medicine and shipped them to the disaster hit area. Two months later, a representative from the donor group visited the disaster area, only to discover that the people who unloaded the shipment thought that it was meant for them only and kept it for themselves. How would the visitor respond, if not by saying “we sent it for everyone, and we expected you to manage the distribution”.

Would this not make sense to us, as God has sent us the blessings and expected us to be “faithful distributors”? St. Peter reminds us, “we are called to be God's faithful distributors of gifts” (1Pet.4:10) The concept of being a "good steward" implies a responsibility to use what has been entrusted to you, not for your own benefit, but for the benefit of your brethren as well. These "goods" are both spiritual and material gifts, that God has given to each of us.

In this month of ‘Thanksgiving’, as we discern our gifts and charisms in gratitude to our loving God. This is the time we ask ourselves, ‘how much God has blessed me, and am I using my gifts according to God’s Plan, as a faithful distributor of His gifts’. (1Peter 4:10)

Take time to discern your gifts and charisms. Experience the supernatural Peace and Joy God desires for each of us. Listen to how God is calling you to use your gifts, to bear good fruit, for the glory of His name.

Jesus foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and the dire consequences for all who would reject him and his saving message. While the destruction of temple was determined (AD 70), Jesus also left a narrow open door leading to deliverance, when he said: "I am the door; whoever enters by me will be saved". Jesus, by dying on the cross, however, brought about true freedom, peace, and victory over the powers of sin and death - not only for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, but for all who would accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

He also tells us that there will be trials, and persecution in this present age, which is not the end. God extends grace and mercy to all who will heed his call and his warning and extends his invitation to seek first his kingdom of righteousness and peace. Let's pray for the grace to recognize the signs of God's judgment, mercy, and grace to ensure that we are ready and prepared to share in his banquet with him.

Joke for the day:

Four Catholic ladies are having coffee together, discussing how special their children are.

The first one tells her friends, "My son is a priest. When he walks into a room, everyone calls him "Father."

The second Catholic women chirps, "Well, my son is a Bishop. Whenever he walks into a room, people say, "Your Grace."

The third woman says proudly, "well, not to put you down, but my son is a cardinal. Whenever he walks into a room, people say, "Your Eminence."

The fourth woman sips her coffee in silence and added. "My son is a gorgeous, 6'2", hard-bodied basketball player. Whenever he walks into a room, people say, "My God".