

# **WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?**

**Montreal Stewardship  
Conference**

**April 17 & 18, 2009**

# **WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP? A WAY OF LIFE!**

## **Definition of a Christian Steward:**

**“One who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.”**

**- USCCB, Pastoral letter on stewardship**

**FOLLOWERS OF JESUS**

**BELIEVER**

**DISCIPLE**

**STEWARD**

# **BELIEVERS**

- **POSSESS A BASIC EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO FAITH AND THE CHURCH**
- **OPERATE IN A MORE PASSIVE-RECEPTIVE MODE**

# DISCIPLES

- **KEY BIBLICAL PASSAGE:**
  - "Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 7: 21)
- **DISCIPLES HAVE MADE AN ACTIVE CHOICE FOR THEIR FAITH**
- **DISCIPLES LIVE INTENTIONALLY**

# **STEWARDS**

- **STEWARDSHIP IS PART OF DISCIPLESHIP**
- **THE KEY ATTITUDE: A STEWARD SEES ALL THINGS AS GIFT**
- **THE KEY ACTION: A STEWARD RETURNS GOD'S GIFTS TO GOD WITH INCREASE**
  - **A stewardship parable: Matthew 25: 14-30**

# **A STEWARDSHIP PARABLE**

## **(Matthew 25: 14-27)**

**"For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.**

# **A STEWARDSHIP PARABLE (Matthew 25: 14-27)**

**He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.**



# **A STEWARDSHIP PARABLE (Matthew 25: 14-27)**

**Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.'**

# **A STEWARDSHIP PARABLE**

## **(Matthew 25: 14-27)**

**His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'**

# **A STEWARDSHIP PARABLE**

## **(Matthew 25: 14-27)**

**And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'**

# **A STEWARDSHIP PARABLE**

## **(Matthew 25: 14-27)**

**He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'**

# **A STEWARDSHIP PARABLE (Matthew 25: 14-27)**

**But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.'**

# WHAT STEWARDS OFFER

## FOR THE WORLD

HEALTH, EXERCISE  
MEDICAL MANDATE  
PERSONAL STUDY  
NEIGHBOURLINESS  
GETTING INVOLVED  
RRSPs + WILL  
UPKEEP OF GOODS  
SOCIAL JUSTICE VOTING  
AND SPENDING



## FOR GOD

PRAYER, AND MORE  
PRAYER  
EUCCHARISTIC  
WORSHIP  
PRESENCE AT  
CHURCH ACTIVITIES  
VOLUNTEERING  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
VOCATIONS  
SACRIFICIAL GIVING

# **RENEWING COMMUNITY**

- **The pastoral care of stewardship means two things:**
  - **Helping the community to come to full discipleship.**
  - **Readying the community, in its structures, to receive the good stewardship of its people.**
    - **Would we be capable of receiving that stewardship if offered?**

# **RENEWING COMMUNITY: GETTING READY**

- **Fiscal accountability**
- **Activity-based budgets**
- **Clear and simple parish policies**
- **Communication that works**
- **Role descriptions**
- **Training and support**
- **A sense of mission to the broader community**



# **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

- 1. CAN WE THINK OF OTHER (OR MORE SPECIFIC WAYS) OF EXERCISING STEWARDSHIP FOR THE WORLD AND FOR GOD?**
- 2. IN BECOMING STEWARDS, THE CHURCH HAS A ROLE TO PLAY. HOW CAN OUR COMMUNITIES BECOME MORE READY TO RECEIVE THE GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF PEOPLE?**