

“STEWARDSHIP/WITNESS SENTENCES”

AUGUST 2014

Series A

AUGUST 3

PROPER 13

MATTHEW 14:17-18 *“We have only five loaves here and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to Me,” He said. When the disciples held on to the five loaves and two fish – that’s exactly what they had. But when they handed them over to the Lord, the multitudes are fed. Apart from Jesus all we do and all we have is nothing – but in Jesus all we do and have is blessed to be used by the Lord for His gracious work.*

Witness:

What good news it is to know that the Maker of the universe, the Controller of the winds and waves, has come to us and encouraged us to doubt our doubts and trust our faith. We can be of good courage because Christ is on our side throughout the storms of life. Can you think of someone caught up in the storms of life who needs to hear some good news from Jesus? Let’s share it!

AUGUST 10

ST. LAWRENCE

2 Corinthians 9:6 *“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”* St. Lawrence was in charge of the church’s alms giving to the poor in Rome. When the Emperor demanded him to bring the treasures of the Church to the government coffers, St. Lawrence showed up the next day with the throngs of the poor and said: “Here O Emperor, are the treasurers of the Church!” Lawrence was martyred for his faith in Christ, which overflowed in his generous life toward others.

Witness:

In Matthew 15:21-28, the Canaanite woman was an “outcast” as far as the Jews were concerned, but she was not an “outcast” in the eyes of Jesus Who came to be the Savior for the whole world, not just the Jewish race. What good news to share that Jesus offers salvation for all!

AUGUST 17

PROPER 15

Matthew 15:27 *“Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”* These are the words of faith, for faith means receiving what God gives. And God has given us so much more than just the crumbs that fall from the table – He has given us life, salvation, body and soul, eyes and ears, possessions and income. That’s where our stewardship starts: with faith in the God Who is the greatest Giver.

Witness:

In Matthew 16:13-20, Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, is still the rock upon which our saving faith rests. That truth is at the center of our sharing the good news about Jesus. Let’s share it with joy enthusiasm!

AUGUST 24

ST. BARTHOLOMEW

Proverbs 3:5 *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”* Here is the key to faithful stewardship – and a faithful life in general! God’s Law is not given to us to hamper our fun, but to show us God’s own wisdom. All things being equal, wouldn’t a life lived in accordance with God’s Word be more fulfilling and satisfying than a life lived at odds with God’s Word? Doesn’t He know better than we?

Witness:

Being a true disciple of Jesus does involve denying ourselves and taking up our cross. Jesus’ question, *“What good will it do for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?”* (Matt. 16:21-26) This encourages us to strive for the only life worth living and to encourage others to join us on a journey to everlasting life.

AUGUST 31

PROPER 17

Matthew 16:26 *“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?”* He who dies with the most toys... is dead. But the one who trusts in the Lord, even though he dies, yet shall he live. We live out our trust in the Lord by faithfully fulfilling the roles God has given us to play in home, church, and society as loving, generous people.