

“STEWARDSHIP/WITNESS SENTENCES”

MARCH 2016

3 YEAR LECTIONARY

MARCH 6 – Lent 4

Luke 15:12 *“And the younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.”* This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth: give me my inheritance now! Which is to say: you are better off dead in my eyes. This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to “come to our senses” as well: to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

Witness: Children are a blessing sent from God. Encourage them to stay true to their faith.

MARCH 13: - Lent 5

Luke 20:16 *“He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”* When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” The crowds were shocked at Jesus’ parable because they took the grace of God for granted. They never thought that God would actually take “the vineyard” away from them. But we only have access to God by faith. And we can drive faith and the Holy Spirit away. That is the warning of the parable. The Lord has graciously given us His Kingdom – let us not take it for granted, but instead respond with humble thanksgiving!

Witness: “Then let us follow Christ, our Lord and take the cross appointed and, firmly clinging to His Word, in suffering be undaunted. For those who bear the battle’s strain the crown of heav’nly life obtain.” (from All God’s People Sing, #85).

MARCH 20 - PALM SUNDAY

Luke 22:11 *“Say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’”* Did Jesus really *need* this man’s Upper Room? If the man had refused to let Jesus use it would the work of salvation have been derailed? Of course not. But what an honor for the man who owned this room! Likewise with us – the Lord needs none of us, but what an honor for God to choose to use our generosity in the work of His Church

Witness: Because of our sinful nature, we cannot keep the Ten Commandments. Only Jesus could live a life of sinlessness. We have a wonderful friend in Him.

MARCH 27 - Easter Sunday

Luke 24:6-7 *“He is not here; He has risen? Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.”* So Jesus is risen...but is that Good News? What if He is mad at us for betraying Him, for running away at Gethsemane, for not believing He would rise? The Good News is not just that Jesus is risen, but that He is risen to bless us: there is no need to be alarmed. He still calls us His friends and brothers and means to bring us through death to resurrection as well. The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed!

Witness: We cannot earn salvation; it is a gift from God which is His Son, Jesus Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to come into your heart each and every day.