

“STEWARDSHIP/WITNESS SENTENCES”

FEBRUARY 2015

FEBRUARY 1 (Epiphany 4)

Mark 1:22 *“And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.”* Authority is a word we are sometimes afraid of and don’t like to hear. But that’s just our sinful flesh talking. Jesus’ authority is something we need. We need him to show us what to believe and how to live – for Jesus’ authority is always connected to his love.

Witness:

“Don’t tell...until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.” With those words, Jesus made the resurrection the key to evangelism. Good News like that just cannot be kept to ourselves. As the Father instructed, listen to Jesus. Tell of His glory!

FEBRUARY 8 (Epiphany 5)

1 Corinthians 9:25 *“Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable.”* Self control is a fruit of the Spirit – for the desires of the flesh are at war with the desires of the Spirit. Having received the new life in Christ by his grace, he now calls us to follow him deliberately, with self-control, with intention.

Witness:

“Worship the Lord, and serve Him only.” We are tempted to think that we can serve the Lord even while compromising His Word. But if we love Him, we should keep His commandments. In love, share His Word with someone this week. Let His light shine through you.

FEBRUARY 15 (Transfiguration)

Mark 9:6 *“For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified.”* Soon enough, the disciples’ terror turned into joy for when Jesus is with us, there is no need to fear. He loves us and cares for us and will never abandon us. That assurance is the basis of all generosity – for only those who are set free from worry can learn the joy of giving.

Witness:

With God, all things are possible. In Genesis 12 we learn how God taught an old dog new tricks. In Romans 4 we learn how God gives hope even to the wicked and the unrighteous. In John 4, Jesus shows His love to a woman who thought it best to try to cover up her sinful past. May we react as she did, telling everyone we meet that God knows us...and loves us anyway!

FEBRUARY 18 (As Wednesday)

Matthew 6:21 *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* There’s the ultimate word on stewardship: your heart goes where you put the treasure which God has given you to manage in this life.

FEBRUARY 22 (Lent 1)

Mark 1:13 *“And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.”* God the Father cares for Jesus even in the midst of his temptation in the wilds. God cares for us in every situation as well. Jesus realized this and always acted from the basis of trust in God the Father’s provision. This is likewise the basis for our life lived in Christ: God cares for us, so we need not act out of fear or greed.

Witness:

“How dare you lecture us!” That’s what the Pharisees said to the man whose sight was restored. They could not believe that God would help a person whose life was steeped in sin, so they never tried to help him. Unfortunately for them, they were blind to their own condition. We must not see the misfortunes of others as signs of God’s judgment on them, but as opportunities for us to share God’s grace.