

SEGMENT NO 4

THEME: *THE WAY OF JESUS*

“My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.”

John 4:34

CALL TO PRAYER & OPENING PRAYER: As for the Order Prayers

FOCUS: *The example of the Steward as found in Jesus*

WORDS OF REFLECTION - *Reflect on the reading of the following:*

1. The Christian vocation is essentially a call to be a disciple of Jesus. Stewardship is part of that. Even more to the point, however, Christians are called to be good stewards of the personal vocations they receive. Each of us must discern, accept, and live out joyfully and generously the commitments, responsibilities, and roles to which God calls him or her.

(SADR p. 25)

2. Jesus is the supreme teacher of Christian stewardship, as he is of every other aspect of Christian life; and in Jesus' teaching and life self-emptying is fundamental. Now, it might seem that self-emptying has little to do with stewardship, but in Jesus' case that is not so. His self-emptying is not sterile self-denial for its own sake; rather, in setting aside self, he is filled with the Father's will, and he is fulfilled in just this way: *“My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work”* (Jn 4:34).

Jesus' mission is to restore to good order the created household of God which sin has disrupted. He not only perfectly accomplishes this task, but also, in calling disciples, empowers them to collaborate with him in the work of redemption for themselves and on behalf of others.

Jesus sometimes describes a disciple's life in terms of stewardship (*cf. Mt 25:14-30; Lk 12:42-48*), not because being a steward is the whole of it but because this role sheds a certain light on it. An *'oikonomos'* or steward is one to whom the owner of a household turns over responsibility for caring for the property, managing affairs, making resources yield as much as possible, and sharing the resources with others. The position involves trust and accountability. (SADR p. 33)

3. Being-with-Jesus refers to a manner of thinking, of acting, of loving, of relating to others, of viewing the world. It is a way of talking about our willingness to follow Jesus, to be drawn by his example, to learn from him, and to have our loyalties corrected and shaped by his. (*William Reiser*)

Allow a few moments reflective silence, then proclaim the Word of God

WORD OF GOD



From the Gospel of Luke 12: 41-48

Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and prudent manager whom his master will put in charge of his slaves, to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find at work when he arrives. Truly I tell you, he will put that one in charge of all his possessions.

But if that slave says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and if he begins to beat the other slaves, men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour that he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and put him with the unfaithful. That slave who knew what his master wanted, but did not prepare himself or do what was wanted, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know and did what deserved a beating will receive a light beating.

From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.



*For the next five minutes silently read and reflect on the readings.
Underline what you consider to be key words and/or phrases for you.*

THE SHARING



Now bring your insights and reflection around the theme and the Readings into discussion of the following: (10 mins)

- ❖ What are the qualities in the life of Jesus that provide for us a standard by which to live?
- ❖ If you were speaking to other members of KSC or members of a parish about stewardship, what example would you use from the life of Jesus?
- ❖ What should you do best in God's Kingdom on earth to prepare yourself for God's Kingdom in heaven?

CONCLUSION

Leader: As we conclude this time of reflection, let us give praise to God as we say:

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

The meeting proceeds

CLOSING PRAYERS: As for the Order Prayers at the Closing of the Meeting.