



Stewardship Reflections

August 2, 2009

Stewardship of Time

There are many inequities in the world, but one thing we all have in common is the amount of time we have each day. God gives each of us exactly twenty-four hours whether we practice contemplative monasticism or run a multinational corporation. Each of us is challenged with how to allocate this time over everything that has to be done in that 24 hour period. Time is a valuable commodity with verbs like 'budgeting', 'spending', and 'wasting' describing how we frequently perceive it as something that can be used and consumed. There is a limited supply of time and, so often in our daily lives, a seemingly unlimited demand for it. It is indeed valuable and, as such, is a gift that God in His generosity has bestowed upon each and every one of us. We must manage out time as we would any precious asset.

St. Mark relates the story of the disciples returning after Jesus had sent them out to drive out demons and heal the sick as witness to the arrival of the New Covenant. Imagine how excited those simple, young, Galilean men must have been to report back to the Master on the wonders that they, as His instruments, had wrought. Imagine how Andrew must have felt when he first placed his hands on the eyes of a blind man and suddenly he saw. Or the awe in Philip as he took the hand of a deformed paraplegic and watched his muscles bulk out as he stood and walked for the first time. These were some excited, amazed, adrenalized people reporting back to Jesus. And after Jesus had listened to the Twelve, He said "*Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while. People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.*" Mk 6:31-32. In the midst of this exhilarating and frenetic time, Jesus shepherds his friends into the quiet. Of anyone present, He alone knew how excited the world should be about the events unfolding around them. But He show us that even in the crazy-busiest of times, He is there to go off in a boat with us for a time, to rest in His presence and just be with Him quietly. In this Gospel lesson, Jesus encourages us to make time for Him - especially when events in our lives seem to become overwhelming. Of course, there were 5,000 hungry people waiting on the other side of the lake for the Twelve, but an hour with Jesus can prepare you for anything that this world can present.

Stewardship of time is the how we manage the time God has generously given us each day. How appropriate it is to 'budget' some of this precious asset for Him who is the source, Creator, and in the end, the Fullness of time. When demands on our time seem overwhelming, or if we find ourselves with too much time on our hands, just remember, Jesus is beckoning us to the boat.

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