

THEME FOR ALL SAINTS' DAY NOVEMBER 1, 2009

LIVING AS CONSECRATED STEWARDS EPHESIANS 2: 8 – 10

For the next four weeks our worship will focus on the theme “Living as Consecrated Stewards”. When God moves in, He graciously gives each of us a “makeover” from the inside out. He also re-shapes our thinking and attitudes so that we willingly live out our lives according to His game plan and design.

Let us discover this morning the joy and privilege of being freed to go to work for our Lord. May the Holy Spirit empower us to leave worship today eager to “give our all” – in service to our Lord and in service to others.

The Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 90: 12 – 17

(This Psalm, written by Moses, is a prayer, asking God to teach us, to satisfy us with His love, and to gladly serve Him. He also asks for God’s blessing on our efforts to promote His kingdom as we live for Him.)

¹²So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. ¹³Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! ¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. ¹⁵Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil. ¹⁶Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. ¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!

The Epistle Lesson

Ephesians 2: 8 – 10

(Paul reminds us that our salvation has a purpose: we were created to do good works for God.)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 20: 20 – 28

²⁰Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came up to him with her sons, and kneeling before him she asked him for something. ²¹And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” ²²Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.” ²³He said to them, “You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.” ²⁴And when the ten heard it, they were indignant at the two brothers. ²⁵But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”