

### **A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY PARABLE**

An indication of our progress as disciples of Jesus Christ on the road to eternal life may be likened to a traffic light. Simple, commonplace and easy to understand, the three color traffic signal light is positioned at major intersections to provide guidance for safe motion towards our destination.

Our parish has come to appreciate that stewardship is a useful roadmap to eternal life. As good stewards and disciples of Jesus, we identify our gifts of time, talent and treasure, and we determine how we can concretely share these gifts with others in building the Kingdom of God, thereby returning them enhanced to God with gratitude.

Today's readings remind us that Jesus is coming soon and will bring to each person the recompense deserved of our conduct.

What do we see at the next traffic signal light? Red, as an indication to stop, "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel" (Mark 1:15)? Yellow, telling us to proceed with caution, "be sober and vigilant" (1 Peter 5:8)? Or, green, inviting us to continue on our way, "well done, good and faithful servant, come, share your master's joy" (cf. Matthew 25:21)?

Let's heed the message of the traffic signal light. An honest, self-examination of our conduct is always in order. God's universal gift to all people of a free will allows everyone to individually choose how they will use, or not use, their gifts.

Stewardship enables us to discern our personal vocation in direct relationship to the individual, particular set of gifts given to us.

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