

HERE I AM, LORD; I COME TO DO YOUR WILL

The passage above, from Psalm 40, concisely sums up many of the fundamentals of the stewardship way of life as a disciple's response to our gifts from God.

"I am, ... I come"

We know that a disciple who practices stewardship does so as a conscious, concrete and personal willingness to share one's time, talent and treasure for building the Kingdom of God. The passage is clear. It is up front. It's personal. It's our own statement of a concrete commitment to doing the will of God.

"Here I am..."

The passage acknowledges where we are currently in our faith journey. Young or old, troubled or content, we begin a commitment to stewardship from where we are now, today, this very hour. Each of us with his or her own particular array of God-given gifts seeks to share those gifts with others in a spirit of gratitude to God.

"Lord..."

We acknowledge that we are God's children. We turn from self to God and our neighbor. The passage sets into perspective the all-good, all-loving Holy Spirit, without which we are nothing. With humility, we commit to service to God.

"Your Will..."

We ask for the grace to understand God's will. We pray that he will direct us to right paths. We ask for guidance to turn from roads of fleeting, transitory satisfaction with worldly goals, to roads of everlasting meaning and substance. Through attendance at Mass, and study of Holy Scripture, we look for direction as to how to best use our gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Lastly, the passage describes discipleship in Jesus Christ as active not passive. We ask to "do" God's will. Stewardship focuses on participation, not observation.

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