

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

October 2026

The Parable of the Woman Who Had Nothing to Give: “I am hungry,” said the young stranger to the older woman who had opened the door in response to his knock. “Could you please give me something to eat?”

“I’m sorry,” said the woman. “I have nothing to give you.”

“Well, then,” said the young traveler, “could you at least give me a stone?”

“A stone?” said the woman. “There are plenty here. Take one from the ground. What will you do with that?”

“I will make some soup,” said the young man.

“Soup?” said the woman. “How will you do that?”

“First I need some boiling water, and then I will make soup from the stone.”

Intrigued, the woman allowed the man into her house; and she furnished him with a pot of water, which was then set to boil. “It would taste a little better,” said the young man, “if there were a carrot in there.” So the woman put a carrot in the pot.

“An onion would add a lot to the flavor,” said the young man. And the woman dropped an onion into the pot.

“It smells delicious,” said the woman approvingly. “Come to think of it, though,” said the young man, “it would smell even better if we had a rutabaga in it.” So the woman found a rutabaga in her larder and added it to the concoction.

And thus it went, with the woman, who supposedly had nothing to give, adding more and more things to the soup. When the soup was done they

both sat down to eat it. They finished it too and including the last drop ... except for the stone. When the young man prepared to leave, he took the stone. “What will you do with that?” asked the woman.

“It is not boiled enough yet,” said the



young man, “so I will take it along for my next bowl of soup.”

Our first thought on reading the story may be that we think we have nothing to give. But if we say that we have nothing to give, we are lying. We have
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The Scriptures call each of us to a deeper awareness of the wonders of God’s blessings, the gifts that he has showered on us in so great an abundance, and to the challenge to use those gifts and talents creatively and responsibly.



Tithing is an out-growth of a sense of thankfulness that, for the Christian, is as natural as breathing.

Since God's mercies are constant and unfailing, our response should be of the same nature in proportion to our ability. The "grace of gratitude" has high rating in the Christian standard of virtues. It is developed by saying "Thank you" to God. Tithing is not a cheap thoroughfare to financial success. At the entrance to life abounding stands the cross of self-denial.



The parish meeting was over. Almost everyone had gone home, except Howard Humble who was doing the dishes.

"Howard, how come you are doing this alone?" asked old Sam.

"I volunteered for it. Never had any religious education, so there's lots of things I can't do," answered Howard.

"I admire a man who doesn't mind doing the humble chores of the church," Sam said.

"Yes, if Jesus could wash his disciples' feet, then I can wash a few dishes," Howard explained.

"Well said!," countered Sam, "However, please remember that Jesus did that only one time to teach his disciples an important lesson. The rest of the time, he had better things to do."

"What are you getting at Sam?," asked Howard.

"Simply this," said Sam, "We must serve Jesus with the best talents we possess. To do less is to dishonor those talents that God gave you, Howard. You have a demanding job that proves you are talented. Try to find a task in the church where you can use those talents to the Glory of God."

But I don't know what I can do. I just can't go pushing my way into things" said Howard.

"You will have to show us what you can do, Howard," Sam explained, "You may have to develop a task that this church has never attempted before. Keep trying! God will guide you to the task he has reserved for you." ✕

Everyone's Responsibility

A man decided to get rid of a dog he owned. When he drove to the city he stopped near the outskirts, put his pet out, and drove away. He spent the rest of the afternoon and evening in the city.

Late that night, through the chill of the falling snow, he headed home. As he neared the edge of the city, he saw his dog sitting just where he had left him. As the car approached, the dog lifted his ears, stood up, and wagged his tail. The man drove on past.

At home he confessed to his wife that his conscience was hurting him; yet he did nothing about it.

This true story is a realistic illustration of spiritual errors made by God's children when they hope that someone else will assume their responsibility. The man had hoped that someone else would take the dog and look after it. Christians often think, "Oh, someone else will do it."

Christian Stewardship is a message and a mission that is learned by a lifetime of practice. Children, as well as adults, need to learn the lesson of sharing with God some of the good things he provides for them.

The work of Christ is not something that someone else funds. It is an effort we all need to support. It is everyone's responsibility. ✕

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor:

Leaves come in a wide variety of shapes. Even if you don't recognize which trees they're from, you wouldn't mistake an oak leaf for a pine needle, or a weeping willow leaf for one from a maple. There are even differences among leaves in different types of the same tree. Yet despite all their differences, all leaves have the same purpose: to make food for the tree, using water, light, and carbon dioxide. Without all three of these things, the tree cannot grow or even live.

A church is like a tree, and its members are like leaves. Without their constant donations of time, talent, and treasure, the church will soon suffer and may not survive. However, with careful stewardship, the church will flourish. And a healthy church, like a healthy tree, will benefit others. It can be a source of food, shelter, and inspiration, too. Remember this as you decide how you can provide your time, talent and resources to make the tree flourish.

Stephanie P.

The Good Steward

The Liturgist opened the worship service saying, "We begin this service we begin every day, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen." It was my time to attend this church. Maybe they begin every day this way, but I have NEVER done that, So I thought, why not try it? And I have.

Here is what I've found: Beginning each day in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit makes me realize anew that this day is a gift from God. Although I continue on my regular schedule, my stewardship awareness is now increased. I notice opportunities to serve others by being more courteous, thoughtful, or kind. Opportunities for giving are more meaningful, whether they are financial gifts, serving food at a homeless shelter, or sharing a talent that I have been given by God.

At the end of the day, my prayers include those people and issues which have highlighted the day. Now, I offer back to God this whole day and its numerous activities. With genuine appreciation for God's guidance and grace that directed my stewardship, I can say, "Thank You, God."

At dawn, I greet another completely new day. It too is begun in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As this continues day after day, I remember the psalmist who prayed to God, "You are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God!" *Psalm 86:10* 

Ask yourself: Do you ever find time for the work of God? Be a good steward and make the exciting discovery of time for yourself. No matter how busy you think you are, you can find time if you try!

There is a wide choice of things which you can do for God and neighbor, in and through your church community ... if you have the good will. With goodwill you also will find the necessary time for such projects, even though you may have to cut and pare in other directions.





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Where Have All the Christians Been?

A young missionary in the Far East, making the rounds on a bitter cold day, came across a sick and starving elderly pagan woman. He took her to the shelter of the mission and saw to it that she had enough food, medicine and care to nurse her back to health. When she had recovered her strength, she wanted to know, "Why do you bother me when no one else cares?" The missionary began to speak of our Lord, and how he sent his followers to help those who suffer.

The old woman thought for a long time, then asked: "This Christ ... is he dead long?" The missionary answered her.

After a thoughtful pause, she questioned: "Where have you Christians been these almost 2000 years?" ☩

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The Parable of the Woman...

ourselves to give. An onion, a rutabaga, some meat, some spices ... we are a variety of things that can become our gifts for the nourishment of others.

God endows each human being with certain time, talents and material possessions. Christian stewardship reminds us that these gifts are not our

own. Stewardship appeals to our noblest instincts to share our gifts with others. ☩

