

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

August 2025

It is not the amount of money a manager is in charge of, but rather how he or she manages it. A family on welfare can have their priorities confused as easily as a corporate president.

In the gospel account of Jesus with the widow who gave her only coin in the offering box, he did not say she was more spiritual for being poor or that rich people were less righteous for being rich. It was her managing of what resources she had that initiated our Lord's praise.

Likewise, in the Parable of Lazarus and the rich man in paradise, the rich man was not condemned for having abundance, but rather for his stingy attitude in sharing with Lazarus. The point Jesus makes for us is clear!

If we have \$1.00 or \$1,000,000, we will be evaluated by God on the priorities we have set in the *use* of these blessings. If we have not learned how to be faithful with what we have been given, Jesus asks us, how then will God place in our hands the greater riches of his kingdom?

First, we need to recognize daily that it is God who owns all that we have. Have you ever been out of work for a period of time, or been in the hole when it came to being able to meet your bills? Who do you turn to for help (besides the bank or a relative)? Usually we pray to our God who promises to supply all our needs. When

we're in financial difficulty, we have no trouble seeing God as the source of help. And when God supplies our need, we thank him for his gifts.

The attitude of being a wise steward begins with thankfulness in the morning that we even have an income, thankfulness every time we write a check, thankfulness when someone needs help

God has entrusted the world to us. We are responsible, as good managers, for the manner in which we use what God has placed in our hands. Stewardship is using our time, our ability, our resources, to our advantage and to the advantage of others for the honor and glory of God.



and we're able to meet their needs out of our resources.

Secondly, sound management for God requires that we concretely offer God a percentage of our income to recognize his ownership. If it can't be 10%, make it 1% or 3%, but it must be

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She Made Caramel Popcorn

Mary Dumars, a woman who belonged to a church in Los Angeles, was especially generous. She made angel food cakes for everybody, anybody, and for “special occasions” that she alone created.

She also made tins of caramel popcorn for every kid in sight. And, if the family was in need, along with these gifts, there would be an envelope of cash quietly given to the parents.

Many of the other members of the church had greater financial resources than she had, but that didn’t matter to her at all. She was a giver.

At her funeral service, several adults continued to try to analyze her generosity. “Why? Why?” they asked each other. Finally, a teen-age girl, who belonged to one of the poorer families, spoke up. “I asked her one day, “Why are you so nice to all of us?” She told me, “It’s my way of thanking God for all that I have been given. Besides, I get so much joy out of trying to help others. It’s just a lot of fun.”

Mary was a living example of stewardship in action. 



Some summer stewardship ideas you can try are: read a book of the bible weekly; spend an extra hour a week giving time to the church for their needs; take a family walk and talk to your children about the gifts which surround us from God; forget about yourself and do something for a neighbor in need; put more money in the Sunday collection in remembrance of those who are away on vacation.



Through the Stained Glass...


Deuteronomy 16: 10,17 Then you shall keep the feast of weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you ... every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which he has given you.

Kee in mind good stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Have you been blessed in one area more abundantly than in others?

Give as you are blessed

Do you feel like you aren't able to give enough money to make a difference, but you are a gifted musician or teacher? So if you are a teacher, teach. If you have time, volunteer. Perhaps your job keeps you traveling and your time and talents are not as available to your church, but you are able to give significant financial gifts.


Proportionate giving

Give in proportion to what you have received. Give proportionally and as you are blessed. You may find time, talent, or monies that you didn't know you had. Remember, the Lord loves a cheerful giver. 

There is a Nigerian proverb that offers a great insight regarding stewardship: *It is the heart that gives, the fingers just let go.*

It is indeed a good and generous heart that is the soil where stewardship takes root and produces marvelous and abundant gifts. Moses understood that. When he was leading his people to build the tabernacle, he said to them: "Take from among you an offering to the Lord; whoever is of a generous heart, let him bring the Lord's offering: gold, silver and bronze. (Exodus 35:5) Moses continues on mentioning other gifts that could be used in making the sanctuary and outfitting it with materials for worship. "Moses called ... every able man in whose mind the Lord had put ability, every one whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work." (Exodus 36:2) It was their hearts that were prompted to give and it was their hands that did the work.

Hearts that are open

Our Lord also taught that stewardship is rooted in the heart. "The good man," he said, "out of the good treasure of his heart produces good..." (Luke 6:45) It seems quite clear that if we use our talents, our time and our resources on behalf of God's kingdom, it is because we have hearts that are opened to God and hands that reach out to give, to serve, and to love. 

If Jesus walked up to you and said: "Come follow me, I have a lot of work to do and I really need your help." Would you tell him to get lost because you are just too busy in your pursuit of personal possessions and worldly comfort? Have you given any consideration to helping Jesus carry out his works in your own church?





There is a folktale in which a man offers to leave his cottage to whichever of his sons can fill it completely with any one thing. The eldest brings a wagonload of sand; the next son one of sawdust. Neither reaches the ceiling. However, his third son succeeds. With his lantern, he fills the cottage from floor to ceiling with light.

Through the Holy Spirit, God has already given us his house, the church. Shouldn't we do our best to fill it with light?

Of course, there are many ways to provide illumination. There is the light of joy the choir's anthems bring to hearts. There is the light of understanding religious education gives to minds. There's even the literal light brought by lightbulbs and candles that someone must buy and someone must change. Christ said, "You are the light of the world." As Christians, we must remember to give our light to others in whatever ways we can. ☩

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It is not the amount of ...

the first check we write.

Be faithful in handling resources

Thirdly, sound financial management requires that we put our own house in order. We cannot run our charge cards to the limit, buy a camper, and take expensive vacations with no plans for the future, and expect God to entrust us with the riches of his kingdom, such as other people's lives, if we have not proved faithful in handling the resources he has given us.

Take a look at our checkbook. It is probably the most revealing picture of how our own resources are managed.

Add up at the end of the month how much we spent for God, how much on ourselves, and how much for others. The percentages might be embarrassing. It will certainly show us if we are serving God or mammon.

Money is a tool

Money is an instrument we use to serve God. It is not good or evil. A poor person is not any more spiritual than a wealthy person. Our managing of the resources we have been given is important. We can't serve God and mammon, but we can serve God with our mammon. ☩

