

WHAT IS BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP? WEEK 5: FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Review – stewards are to multiply the investment of their Lord. Luke 17:7-10; Luke 18:11-27

- We are to multiply the work, the deposit of the Gospel in our lives in the lives of others.
- Parable of the talents. Those that invested, traded, occupied, did their Lord's business were commended and given rule in His kingdom. 2 Tim 2:11-12.
- Beware: The steward that was faithless thru fear, was called wicked by His Lord. He lost all. 1 Cor 3:15
- Jesus made the ultimate investment in us. He gave us His life, everything! We are to multiply that investment throughout the whole world! Matt 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Tim 2:2, etc...

So stewardship is all about making disciples!

1Cor 4:2 What is required: is that you and I are "all in!"

- **All that we are.** Luke 10:27
- **All that we have:** time, talent, treasure.

So, yes, that includes our cash. Most of Biblical stewardship is tied to the central doctrines of salvation. For instance, Christmas is right around the corner. While most of us think of Christmas in terms of something God gave, the real reason we have Christmas is to celebrate something God purchased. 1 Cor 6:20; Acts 20:28

Let's start where you are at... Everyone has _____.

Our problem: We think about our stuff in terms of our ownership. My stuff...

The Bible gives us the Stewardship Paradigm – when you become a Christian, God takes you out of ownership and puts you into management.

Key: Who is in _____? That determines how you will live, the decisions that you make, etc... If I am in control (lord) – then *my* resources are *mine* and will be managed for me. If God is in control, then I must manage all for Him.

Biblical Stewardship: Our giving proves out our heart and keeps it in right alignment with God and God's priorities. It keeps our life focused on all that matters. Matt 6:19-21; Col 3:1-2

1. What are we to manage in our giving?

- **Tithe – “_____” That is the first dime out of every dollar.** The first is Gods. A tithe is the starting point for your financial giving to your local church. The tithe establishes the lordship of Jesus Christ in your life in the area of finances. It should be taken “off the top” as an indication of the priority of God in your life.
A common argument “Christ has done away with the law at Calvary!”
First. Jesus didn't do away with the Law – He fulfilled it.
Second. God has always required a tithe – long before He ever gave law!
Examples:
 - Gen 2:9; 17; 4:4
 - Melchisedec (again, before the law!) He is the _____ of _____. Heb 5:5-6; 7:1-2You can read the story in Gen 14:18-20.

Paul never overturns the tithe.

Just like the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the tithe does not BELONG TO YOU! It is designed to keep us in recognition of who God is.

Why? God wants to be FIRST in your life! Exo 20:3; Matt 6:21

God's people are blessed knowing that they live much better on _____ than they can on 100%.

Temptation – to keep and spend all on self. How did that work out in Gen 3?

- *Lost fellowship with God. Vs 7-8*
A curse. Gen 3:16-19 (childbearing – pain. Cursed ground, labor.
- *Lose of eternal life. – Gen 3:22-24*
Mal 3 “Shall a man rob God?”

- _____ – **freewill.**

In addition to the tithe, voluntary offerings were given in the Bible by God's people to fund special needs. If your life is given to the service of Jesus Christ, then your resources will be available to fund your ministry. Ex 25:1-2; 35:5, 22, 28; 2 Co 8:11-12; 1 Chr 38:3,5,9,14,17, etc..

The result of a giving people? Exo 36:3-7

- _____ – **for the mission.**

As your spiritual growth continues, you should reach the point where you give not just out of your abundance, but to the point it will cost you in sacrifice. Jesus gave ALL for you, and he is your example. ***Christ is our example:*** Eph 5:1-2; 2Co 8:9

Bible examples of sacrificial giving are many:

- The churches of Macedonia - II Corinthians 8:1-4
- The widow's mite - Luke 21:1-4
- David - II Samuel 24:24

Sacrifice for fruit thru missions! Php 4:15-17

MBT is calling every member to trust God for how He would lead them to sacrifice for our local disciple making, leadership equipping ministry here in Midtown. 2 Kings 6:1-2 **We are trusting God to raise the next \$50K thru an end of year Christmas offering and or giving plan for 2015.**

2. God shows His genius in giving us the _____ to give!

- ***It forces us to examine our _____!***

In all, our obedient giving is to be free will, out of a cheerful heart! 2Co 9:7; Col 3:22; 1Jn 3:18

- God uses your finances to give you a gauge of your heart! It's genius – He uses our finances to help us keep our hearts tied to / invested in Him! Matt 6:21

- ***Giving _____ us to the image of Christ.***

- God is a giver! God's essential nature is giving, which is manifest in Jesus Christ.
John 3:16; I John 4:10; II Cor 8:8-9
- God's will is that you would be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Rom 8:29-30

- Giving _____ your _____ because it establishes a dependency on God. When you give, it requires you to trust God for your future provisions. Luke 6:38