

Monday, March 15

Stewardship Principle

Readings: Psalm 53
Leviticus 23:26-41
Revelation 19:1-8

3 **Sacrifice proportionately**

as Christ sacrificed for us. For our sake Jesus gave up everything to make us rich through the cross and the resurrection. We are called to sacrifice so others may share in God’s word and blessings.

“... gave according to their means, and even beyond their means.”
2 Corinthians 8:3

Prayer: *Lord, you speak to us through prophets of old, through those today who proclaim your word and most clearly through Jesus living example. Open our eyes to see your Word as it directs our actions, and through our actions deliver your message. In Jesus name. Amen.*

Focal Verse: “The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: These are the appointed festivals of the Lord, which you shall celebrate as times of holy convocation, for presenting to the Lord offerings by fire—burnt offerings and grain offerings, sacrifices and drink offerings, each on its proper day.”
Leviticus 23: 33, 37

Reflection: The position of scripture is that we *are* stewards – it is not something we choose to be. We may choose to be faithful stewards or unfaithful stewards, but that we *are* stewards is a given.

The Bible teaches that God has redeemed us from bondage, delivered us from the devil, freed us from sin and death so that ... God has redeemed us so that we might belong to God, live in God’s kingdom, thrive and prosper under God’s providential care.

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

Believing in God as Redeemer means believing that we have been redeemed. And being redeemed means living freely under the rule of God. God has not just set us free from tyrannical, evil powers but has also pledged to be our lord and ruler our lives. Just as “lack of misery” is not the same as joy, so “being set free from bondage” is not all there is to redemption. We do not realize how much God offers us until we enter into the kingdom of God and experience what it means to have God rule our lives.

Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God because God created all that there is and has never renounced ownership of any of it. Believing in God as Redeemer leads us to see that this is *good news* because those who belong to God benefit from the guidance and protection that God’s rule over their lives affords.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Powell, Mark Allan, Giving to God: The Bible’s Good News about Living a Generous Life, © 2006, Errdmans Publishing, p. 28, 34 & 38.