

Tuesday March 16

Stewardship Principle

Readings: Psalm 53
Leviticus 25:1-19
Revelation 19:9-10

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Give willingly

as moved by the Holy Spirit. We have been prepared to give ourselves. We give our time, talents, and resources freely.

**“For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave ...”
2 Corinthians 8:3**

Prayer: *Almighty God, we humbly thank you for your goodness to us and to all that you have made. We praise you for your creation and preservation, for keeping us and all things in your care, and for all the blessings of life. Give us such an awareness of your mercies that with thankful hearts we praise you, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving ourselves to your service and by living in your gifts of holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all worship and praise, now and forever. Amen*⁴⁷

Focal Verse: “In this year of jubilee you shall return, every one of you, to your property. When you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not cheat one another.” Leviticus 25: 13-14

Reflection:

The New Testament also demands the just sharing of resources. It is the duty of those who are wealthy to give generously of their wealth to those who are in conditions of physical need. Since God owns everything, since we are managers of what God has entrusted to us, and since that management exists for the good of others, then it stands to reason that God has blessed the wealthy with material items, not so that they may hoard things for themselves, but rather use that wealth to benefit those who have material needs.

The most effective way to break the power of money is to give it away – to give it away generously, to give it away in a manner that the world would describe as reckless. In giving money away generously, we are making a bold statement to ourselves and others that we are not serving money, that we have not believed its lies to us about the security that it offers. In giving money away generously, especially to Jesus’ work through the church, we are saying we won’t try to serve God and wealth. Rather, we will use the wealth that God has entrusted to us for God’s ends.⁴⁸

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

⁴⁷ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Pastoral Care*, p.361.

⁴⁸ Charles Lane, Ask, Thank, Tell, © 2006, Augsburg Fortress, p. 40 and 42.