

Monday, March 22

Stewardship Principle

Readings: Psalm 20  
Exodus 40:1-15  
Hebrews 10:19-25

Prayer: *O God, in your love you have given the people of this land, gifts of abundance beyond what our forebears knew or could imagine. Mercifully grant that we may not be so occupied with material things that we forget spiritual gifts, and thus, even though we have gained the whole world, lose our souls; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*<sup>58</sup>

Focal Verse: “Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:19-22

Reflection: The Bible teaches that God sustains us in our weakness, and strengthens us when we are weary. “They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,” the prophet Isaiah promises (Isaiah 40:31). “I can do all things through him who strengthens me,” the apostle Paul testifies (Philippians 4:13).

Faith in God as our Sustainer translates into a single word: *trust*. “Do not worry about anything,” Paul advises. “My God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6, 19). And Jesus himself says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid” (John 14:27).

Believing in God as Sustainer means, believing that we are sustained – that we have a God who strengthens us and provides for us and that we can trust this God to take care of us. The implications of this belief for stewardship are simple but obvious: we are free to use our resources (our time, our talents, and our treasury) in ways that are pleasing to God without worrying about our own needs. We offer to God what God has first given us and we know that God will continue to provide for us and to teach us the secret of being content.<sup>59</sup>

**9** **Live genuinely**

means putting your faith into action. This is the tangible demonstration of what is sincerely on our hearts and where our treasure is, not simply a verbal expression. The Macadonians set an example that Paul called to the attention of the Corinthians.

**“I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others.”**  
2 Corinthians 8:8

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.mpls-synod.org/stewardship/prayers>

<sup>59</sup> Powell, Mark Allan, Giving to God: The Bible’s Good News about Living a Generous Life, © 2006, Errdmans Publishing, p. 39-40 and 42.