

Friday, March 26

Stewardship Principle

Readings: Psalm 31:9-16; Isaiah 54:9-10; Hebrews 2:10-18

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: *Almighty and ever-faithful Lord, gratefully acknowledging Your mercy and humbly admitting our need, we pledge our trust in You and each other. Filled with desire, we respond to Your call for discipleship by shaping our lives in imitation of Christ. We profess that the call requires us to be stewards of Your gifts. As stewards, we receive Your gifts gratefully; cherish and tend them in a responsible manner; share them in practice and love with others; and return them with increase to the Lord. We pledge to our ongoing formation as stewards and our responsibility to call others to that same endeavor. Almighty and ever-faithful God, it is our fervent hope and prayer that You who have begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfillment in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*⁶⁶

Focal Verse: “It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.” Hebrews 2:10-11

Reflection: The Bible teaches that everything that we think we own actually belongs to God. And Jesus says that we need to give it all to God. At first, this sounds unrealistic, if not impossible, but obviously such a commitment is not to be fulfilled in a literalistic or legalistic sense. How, then, do we give everything to God? We do so by submitting the governance of our lives to the rule of God, to the lordship of Christ, and to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus talked more about the rule of God than he did anything else. “The kingdom of God has come near!” (Mark 1:14). Stewardship consists of living under this rule of God – and *financial* stewardship consists of placing our finances under this rule of God.

The essence of Christian faith has always been found in the simple recognition that Jesus is Lord. This means that Jesus Christ is in charge of our lives. But if Jesus Christ is to be lord of our lives, then he must certainly be in charge of our finances. And that is what biblical stewardship is about: we give all to God by letting Jesus Christ be lord of who we are and what we have.

Jesus called the Holy Spirit our Advocate or Helper and said that this Spirit would teach us everything (John 14:26) and guide us into all truth (John 16:13). Stewardship, then, may be simply a matter of allowing the Holy Spirit to direct and guide our lives, and financial stewardship may be a matter of letting the Spirit determine how we use our material resources.⁶⁷

What do you hear?
How does it make you feel?
Toward what are you being drawn?
What do you sense you should do?

⁶⁶ <http://www.stmarcelline.com/PrayersforBlessing.htm>

⁶⁷ Powell, Mark Allan, Giving to God: The Bible’s Good News about Living a Generous Life, © 2006, Errdmans Publishing, p. 75-79.