

Wednesday, March 3  
Readings: Psalm 105:1-15, 42  
2 Chronicles 20:1-22  
Luke 13:22-31

## Stewardship Principle

# 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: *Gracious Lord, you have blessed us with abundance. From your bounty you have given us all that we need and even more. Open our hearts to make available what you have given us so that all will have enough this day. In Jesus name. Amen.*

Focal Verse: "Then people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." Luke 13:29-30

### Reflection:

Christian stewardship begins with God's giving. A person cannot be a Christian giver until he or she first becomes a receiver, until he or she receives God's gift. As Christian stewards, we are God's trustees who are chosen to take care of all that is important to God.

The Christian steward ... is one who cultivates an intimate relationship with God. It is a relationship of prayer, Bible study, spiritual growth, constancy in worship, service to the community, and giving.

Yes, Christian stewardship begins with God's love, but it goes on to affirm God's ownership. ... that all we have is God's. A friend once designed an overhead slide for me to use in seminars. It shows a hearse with a rental truck on the back. How much of what we have is really ours?

Tithing is not about giving 10 percent; it is about who we are, whose we are, and what we are doing with all of it – all 100 percent. Christian stewardship begins with God's love, affirms God's ownership, and then celebrates God's partnership.

Stewardship understands that everyone is in a partnership with God, a partnership in which God provides the gifts for ministry. ... God's invitation to be in partnership, provide a clue of what life is about for each individual.<sup>30</sup>

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

<sup>30</sup> Joiner, Donald W., *Creating a Climate for Giving*, © 2001, Discipleship Resources, p.30-33.