

Wednesday, March 31

Stewardship Principle

Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

7

Commit intentionally

means making a statement about your intent and following through. As members in the body of Christ, we are asked to make a commitment of our time, talents, and resources as a faithful response to God and as a statement of support for God's work.

“... arrange in advance for this bountiful gift that you have promised.”
2 Corinthians 9:5

Prayer: *God who creates and cares for all, move us to be good stewards of the resources with which you have blessed us. May we be intentional in our use of our talents, time, wealth, and the Earth's resources and may we use them to glorify you. Amen.*⁷⁴

Focal Verse: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.”
Hebrews 12:1-3

Reflection:

Spiritual disciplines ... are certain practices that we can do regularly to maintain our spiritual health. Praying before a meal is a common discipline. So is attending church on a Sunday mornings.

The Bible presents stewardship as a spiritual discipline, and recognition of what it says in this regard is central to an understanding of biblical stewardship as “good news.” The point is ... that how we spend our money *determines* what sort of people we *become*.

Our treasure is whatever we value. Whatever we value – that is our treasure. And Jesus says that what we do with our treasure affects our hearts – it determines who we are inside. It determines what sort of people we become.

Jesus talked about money because he cared about us and because he knew that what we do with our money affects who we are spiritually.⁷⁵

What do you hear?

How does it make you feel?

Toward what are you being drawn?

What do you sense you should do?

⁷⁴ Sojourners, <http://blog.sojo.net/2009/08/31/prayer-of-the-day-2009-08-31/>

⁷⁵ Powell, Mark Allan, *Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life*, © 2006, Erdmans Publishing, p. 51, 53-4.