

STEWARDSHIP
Acts 6-1-6

Lamm

My talk to day might be called an exhortation rather than a sermon. Whatever it is I can assure you that it is from my heart. I want us to think about Stewardship as regards property. I will naturally speak of money but please relax for I am not going to take an offering. Sometimes I feel ashamed of myself and church people for being so timid about the subject of money in the church. When you turn to Matt., Mark, and Luke one verse in four deals with money and take the whole N.T. and you find that one verse in six deal with it.

In our church here we are in a critical period. We can do either of two things...we can go backward or else we may go forward. Our D.S. Brother Lott said Friday that he believes that this building is going to be the best in the conference. I do know that it is the desire of the pastor and his wife that this be the model church of the conference. Much of the membership desires the same thing.

What do we mean when we talk about going forward? WE MEAN GETTING IN STEP WITH GOD'S PURPOSE IN THE WORLD. What is that purpose? It is to spread the Good News that Jesus can save all mankind from sin.

To carry out God's purpose Jesus gave Himself and then established the Church and said, "Upon ~~this~~ rock will I build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Ever since man began to worship God altars, Synagogues, Tabernacles, Temples, and Churches have been built. Ever since Christ built His Church it has been an outreaching church.

This church is to Evangelize. On Sept. 5-7th in Birmingham there will be a Jurisdictional Conference on Evangelism. Being on the Jurisdictional Board of Evangelism, Mrs. Wroten and I will attend that meeting. Following that meeting there will be six glorious months of Evangelistic effort. That is stewardship my brethren of your time and talents. You are going to have that glorious opportunity of using your power of stewardship in winning souls.

This Church that Jesus built is to EDUCATE in Christian education..teach us to build colleges, hospitals, Orphan homes, Mercy homes etc.

This Church of our Redeemer teaches STEWARDSHIP not only of time and effort but also of money. No person in the world owns any thing. The good earth, water, air, and the power to get wealth belong to God. We are merely stewards of what we hold in our names. God wants us to cultivate, and make an increase on all that we have. He intends that we place back in His coffers enough of that increase to carry on His saving program to the very last lost person in this world. What He expects back is far in arrears.

Such a program can not be carried on with pea nut and pop corn collections. A little boy asked his father for some money..the father gave him a few nicles. He said, "Dad I did not want church money I wanted spending money." Neither can the church bring up those arrears when only 33 % of the membership pays any thing...that is the average over the church.

How much does God want you to give back? He wants enough to carry on his work. But how much? Well back in the Old Testament, when there were schools to build, no hospitals, no Orphan Homes, no Mercy Homes, and no foreign mission work it was taught to pay one tenth. When the church became a reaching out church...a Missionary church ..but even before Hospitals and homes etc. Paul said, "On the first day of the week lay aside as the Lord has prospered you." By the way if the 230 families in our church had an average income of \$100 per month and would even ~~time~~ ^{share} our income would be \$27600.00. *\$9100 = more than our budget*

If we were to give as Paul said we could hardly handle the money. Three boys were talking..one said, "My daddy sure makes lots of money. He sells cars and makes some times \$1000 a month." Second boy said, "You ought to see the money my Dad makes..he sells real estate and some times makes a thousand dollars in one day." The third boy was a preacher's son. He said, "That's nothing you ought to see how my dad makes money. It takes six men to bring it up to the altar every Sunday morning."

We regret to say such a thing but if people tried to run their business with same business methods that most churches use they would not last a year. And suppose that only

one third of the people paid taxes.

Now let us look at our own situation. I said, a few minutes ago, that we have the opportunity of being the model church of the conference...that we could go forward or backward. To go forward will mean for us to get down to some real stewardship of time, effort, and means. Look at your church school figures over there on the wall. Look at the items of last years budget that were not touched.

Your budget will naturally be higher this year than last not because of raise in salaries but in added incidentals insurance etc. on the additional building and equipment. You will have to increase your pledges some five or ten % or else enlist some new money from those who have not been been supporting the financial program. Remember our slogan.. "Every person doing something."

we can do some thing if we do not spend all B4. we get to the church
The Discipline of the church reads as follows: Page 37 *Book* Read.. Then Morelock " A Steward In The Methodist Church" *Set* page 37 says:

In line with this and according to the decision of your Finance Committee, we are asking each member of this ch. to come right here next Sunday afternoon at two o'clock and indicate on your card what you are willing to give back to God to carry on HIS work. As to the amount you subscribe no one will publish that. You make your subscription according to your conscience after having prayed about it. Dont refuse to come...you will feel better after you have come and made your promise. *No person can feel happy who does not help.*

WHEN YOU PLEDGE LET IT BE RETROACTIVE TO FIRST OF JUNE AND PAY UP YOUR PLEDGE TO DATE FOR WE ARE BEHIND \$2000 ON OUR BUDGET..I UNDERSTAND...THAT'S BAD.

AS YOU KNOW I HAVE PREACHED VERY LITTLE ABOUT MONEY. IF YOU WANT ME TO PUT SOFT PEDAL ON THAT SUBJECT YOU CAN STOP ME NEXT SUNDAY.

A young preacher, whose father was also a minister, came home from school and his father had him preach. He used as his subject Repentance. He preached again that night and used same subject. To give the boy practice his father hadhim preach the next Sunday morning. He used Repentance the third time. His father became kinder anxious and said

4
"Son will you preach again for me to night?" He said,
"Yes Dad" The father said, "What are you using for your
subject to night?" "Repentance" was the reply. Then the
father advised.."Son you have already preached three times
on repentance why are you usning it a third time.?"
"Well dad it is like this, they have not repented yet."
So if you do not fix up your budget I might have to come
again.

THEN COME INSTALLATION OF STEWARDS.....

READ ACTS 6:1-6.....

No greater honor can come to a layman than to be chosen
a steward in the Methodist Church.

Men of Honest report

" Full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom.

It is your solemn responsibility to hold up the dignity
of the church, sincerely look after the financial program,
and promote its interests by self dedication to its pro-
gram of spreading the Gospel.

Do you, each of you, feel in your hearts that you are
going to strive to live up to the priviledges and obli-
gations of a steward?

Your answer should be "God being my helper I will try?"



3-15-12