

# Stewardship

Mat. 25:14 + 30

when we speak of stewardship we are prone to think of giving and tithing of our income to the church. Is not a tenth at least we think of money. But money is the least thing in it. Money to the church is just one of the many fruits of stewardship.

"Stewardship is real partnership with God in His purposes for the world." The Biblical idea of stewardship grew out of a well known relation between owner and steward in which the steward shared the interests of the owner and enjoyed his trust and confidence.

The thing created does not own itself but is the possession of the creator. God created all things earth, moon, sun, stars and man together with every creeping thing and there fore owns it all.

When He had made man He placed him in the Garden to keep it - He let the race of man come into the world as its reigning place. man was to keep it in a way that would promote God's will and not to build up the devil's kingdom.

We are not our own but are bought with a price - the blood of Jesus. That was a very dear price.

Now let us keep in mind what it is. Partnership with God in His purposes for the world. Is that not true then let us look for a few brief moments at the different phases of our lives.

1. Stewardship of property. That is to say anything you have a duty to it to be used in a way that will help carry out the purposes of God. If you own a farm and you are allowing white mulberries to be made on that place or if you are corn and allow it to be made into whiskey which will hurt men's lives and send their souls sizzling down to hell then you are not a faithful steward but a thief or embezzler.

God's property for your own selfish ends  
you own a public building up town and  
you rent it out and the man you rent it to  
permits gambling on any number of other  
things which cannot be tried for the glory  
of God to go on. you say "I do not care what  
you are just so I get my money out of it."  
you are not a steward but an abuser of God's  
property using God's property. you rent a  
man a piece of land and you find that he is  
using it for his own interest and do -  
regards yours you put him off if you have  
a manhood about you. But you want  
to use God's property for your own inter-  
ests and thereby hurt God's cause and ex-  
pect God to let you go on unrebuked.  
you have a vacant lot or the corner building  
and you rent it to any dirty crowd that comes  
along just so you get your 10% a year invest-  
ment in all you care for. (Individual or town)

2. Time. All your time (not a 10th) is to be  
used in God's partnership so as to carry  
out His purpose in the world you can't  
give six days to the devil and one to  
God and get by but all of it is to be  
used in that way and manner which  
will please the great Owner and Director  
of it all.

3. Talent or ability. you are to use your life  
and not bury it. God expects you - His  
creation to bring Him a income.

4. your personality - influence

Now if we are real stewards (as members of the  
church) we must make the right settlement  
with the great Partner. & the Jewish dispensa-  
tion they gave a tenth. Now Christ never  
reversed any thing Jesus word. The Hebrews  
had the law and gave the tithe. we have Christ  
calvary, immortality brought to light, and the  
wonderful age of Grace. Should we be  
or have appreciation or to want all this for  
less than a tithe?

this leads to proportionate giving

"On the first day of the week lay aside  
as the Lord hath prospered you."

The Lord will bless. Mine son of Mr.  
G - Kim - M - etc. Farmer writer etc.

### Installation of stewards

The stewards please come to the front.

I am glad to see you men who have been  
honored by your church - the gift of this  
office of steward. I do not deem it ne-  
cessary to give you a further lecture on  
stewardship after the remarks you have  
heard from me to-night.

I will read to you the discipline of your  
church - what it says about a steward

now since all the church and community  
look to you men for example it behooves  
each of you to live free from the very  
appearance of evil.

I have often said during my minis-  
try - Talking to stewards. If I were honored  
with your office and at the same time  
knew in my heart that I loved the world  
better than I did my church and knew  
also that my example was hurting the  
church and felt that I was unwilling  
to give up the hurtful things for the  
sake of the church I would resign  
my office as steward and let it fall  
upon another until a future day  
when with clear conscience I could  
take it up again.

Now I do not know the life of you men  
intimately. I hope therefore that each of you  
will live the life which bears abiding  
reproach.

Now will each of you for the sake of God  
for the sake of Christ for the sake of the church  
for the sake of lost humanity, and for the

ocks of your own soul strive to furnish  
to the world an example of clear Christian  
manhood? If you will

Let this be your answer; "God being  
my helper I will."

Friends, there are the stewards of our  
Church and you have seen them in-  
stalled. will you pledge them yours

1. Sympathy
2. Support
3. Smiles
4. Prayers?

If you will - come give these  
persons your hand as they face  
the audience.

"Blest be the tie that binds"

