

Supp 388 a charge to keep (all)
422 work for the night is coming (all)
312 Happy Day (1-2)

41
45
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STEWARDSHIP
Matt. 25:14-30

A steward is one employed to manage according to Webster. He of course is employed to manage in a way to be beneficial to the owner. We have spoken of stewardship so much in connection with money that whenever the word hits our ear drums immediately dollars begin to roll across our vision. Now to be sure money is not stewardship but money given to the church or used in any other way for righteousness sake is a fruit of stewardship. Not stewardship itself but merely a fruit.

I ran across a definition the other day for stewardship that I want to keep always and at the same time always give away. Will you remember it if I will give it to you? Here it is: "Stewardship is partnership with God in His purposes for the world." Now this does not say partnership with God in money. If it did say that it would not be a good definition. But it implies partnership with God in every thing. Now with this thought in mind let us read the lesson for to day.

Now in connection with this lord and his servants we notice certain facts: Each servant was put in charge of some of this world's goods. They did not receive a deed in fee simple to this property but were given charge of it to use it in such a manner that when the lord came back he would receive not only the amount turned over to them but more. Each person was given a period of time in which to use those talents or that portion of worldly goods and to make thereon some interest. After the talents had been turned over to them their personal attitude toward those talents was going to determine whether or not the lord would receive any interest when he came back.

They were given the capital, they had the time, they had personality to use in connection with the goods, and there was to be a day of settlement to see how they had conducted themselves. Therefore, each one of us is a steward appointed to the office of stewardship over whatever of material substance comes to us, over our time and over our personality.

Now let us repeat the definition of stewardship again: "Stewardship is real partnership with God in His purposes for the world." Now let us connect this with the idea in our scripture lesson. We would then say, "Stewardship is real partnership with God in our property, time, and personality, in His purposes for the world."

Think first then of the stewardship of property. I am not a steward of just a tenth of my property but I am in a partnership with God with all my property. If this is true, then I have no right to use any property which is committed to me in any way whatsoever that will not bring gain to God in His purposes for the world. If you own a farm and you allow it to be used as a place on which to make whiskey that will send mens souls sizzling down to hell then you are not a steward. If you own a house up town and it is a gambling den you have no right to say, "I do not care what the man

Now

S-Can
Kill the
Church

The father pays for whole family
a good practice for a steward is to have personal con-
tact with people on his list and in private conf. send the
church to them
Some ch. officials specialize in seeing just how little money can be spent for the church

does with the house just so I get my rent out of it. This would not apply to an individual alone but to an organization or a town. A town does not have a right to rent a vacant lot to just any thing that comes along just in order to get some money if making that money means that evil influences are coming to the young life of the town. I saw a rattle snake up town the other day and it was a very large and dangerous one. While I stood there looking at that thing which had within itself enough poison to kill a number of children if only it could get to them, a good citizen said to the man with the snake, "I will give you a dollar if you will go and kill that snake." The man replied, "I have just been offered five dollars for it by another man who wanted to keep it alive." One offering his property to put down the danger another offering his to keep the danger alive. Make your own spiritual application.

I am to use all my money in a way that will forward God's purposes for the world. This does not mean that I give it all to the church directly. I use the part that falls to me to feed my family and make them strong physically, a part to train their minds and hearts to use their bodies aright. Thus I am a partner with God in His purposes for the world, in that I have reared some human beings up to be servants of His. I do not have the right to spend my money in giving them training that will lead them in to the sinful practices of this world. Some people spend so much on their families trying to make them shine in the evil side of society that they have very little which they can give to God. (Stone)

*Have to have
spend no more
time than is
necessary at
any one place*
In the second place we are stewards of time. Not of one seventh ^{Yodisip} but of all of it. I can not give Sunday to God and then give six to the devil and claim real partnership with God in His purposes for the world. But I must use it all for the glory of God. This does not mean that you must be at the church all the time but it does mean that you are not to spend your time in an illegitimate business. A Christian should not engage in a business that will not aid God's Kingdom. You can draw your own illustrations.

But with money or time aside from using it all in a general way for God there is a certain amount that should be given in to the specific channels of the church for the propagating of the Gospel of the Son of God. The Jews gave a tenth. They had the law. Jesus never revised any thing downward. Consequently we with not only the law but also with Jesus, Calvary, the age of Grace and a world parish should surely not give less than a tenth if we are to be good stewards. But with Paul should give as the Lord prospers us. This would mean proportionate giving.

In the last place but not the least place is the stewardship of personality which brings in your own influence. You have no right in the world to walk in any way that your personality will not produce that quality of life that will forward God's purpose in the world. You are a member of a church, lodge, society, or any other kind of organization. You have power, for instance, so to shape the policy of that organization that it will go hand in hand with God in carrying out His purposes in the world and you do not use that influence that way. Are you playing fair with your great Partner?

"I want to give as I love my boy"