



Why Teach Stewardship?

Calvary Baptist Church
Stewardship 2012 Sermon #2
January 15, 2012

Portions from: *Evangelism and Church Growth*, by Elmer Towns

I. S - **STRENGTHEN** (2 Cor. 8:7)

- We teach stewardship to strengthen every believer in the congregation.
- When we teach stewardship, everyone is taught that **everything** belongs to God!
- Believers are called to be disciples, and a disciple is one who **follows** his Lord!
- And this month we learn how a disciple should use his **money**!

II. T - **TRAIN**

- Certainly, the funding of God's work is important.
- But more important is the training of believers in this **vital** area of their life.

A. Training Believers to **Obey** God (Prov. 3:9)

- One cannot read the Scriptures without observing the commands to **give**.
- Stewardship teaching trains everyone in the local church.
- Little children should be taught to **tithe** their allowance!
- An elderly **widow** with a retirement income or social security needs to be taught to trust God enough to give!
- Young **couples** are trained to put God first.

QUOTE: A Christian cannot become spiritual without being **obedient**. Therefore, a stewardship campaign cannot be viewed as something carnal merely because it involves **money**. The campaign should be viewed as the highest expression of spiritual ministry in the [church] year. If conducted properly, more people will **obey** Jesus Christ and follow His Lordship.

Towns

B. Training Believers about the **Reward that Comes with Obedience (2 Cor. 9:6-7)**

- Yes, God promises to **bless** the faithful giver.
- But even more than the return on the monetary investment ... we have the **JOY** that comes with obeying God.

C. Training Believers that God Can Be **Trusted (2 Cor. 9:8)**

III. E - **EXAMINE (MY HEART) (Luke 12:34)**

QUOTE: It is a time of self-evaluation, commitment to God and potentially a time for **revival**. *Townes*

- It is as simple as this. God is clearly saying that if your **money** is not in the church, your **heart** is not in it either!

IV. W - **WORK OF GOD (Luke 12:31)**

QUOTE: Have you ever noticed how big \$100.00 looks when you take it to **church**, yet how small it looks when you take it to the **mall**?

- “In the parables, whenever the master went on a long journey, he always came back looking for a return from his farm.” *Towns*
- During our lifetime, we have been left with the **keys** to the store.
- But expect the boss’s **car** to pull up from time to time.

QUOTE: God created us in His image and likeness. He has given us a good mind, strong wills and the opportunities to make something of our lives for His glory. God now comes and wants us to **use** our gifts and abilities for Him. During a stewardship campaign, all Christians should be reminded that they should return **finances** to God so that the work of God may prosper. *Townes*

V. A - ACKNOWLEDGE (2 Cor. 9:10-11; Dt. 8:18; Job. 1:21; Jam. 1:17)

- The workers in the vineyard were asked for nothing until after **harvest** came in.
- But then they were to demonstrate that they had been productive **stewards**.

QUOTE: Sometimes it seems impossible to thank God enough for all He does for us, but showing Him that in His spirit we will give back whatever we can is one way to **express** our gratitude and show that we **learn** from his example. *Stewardship Technology*

VI. R - RESPONSIBILITY (Matthew 21:33-41)

- I do not want anyone looking over at me and saying, “Preacher, why didn’t you **warn** me about this?”

NOTICE ## THINGS THAT THESE VINEYARD WORKERS REFUSED TO ACCEPT ...

1. They refused to accept the fact that they did not **own** the vineyard!
2. They refused to accept the fact that they were **accountable** for how they managed the vineyard.
3. They refused to accept the fact that, in attacking the owner’s messengers, they would not evade their certain **judgment**.
4. They refused to accept that you cannot fight the **owner** and win!

- Each year we remind ourselves of who **owns** the vineyard.
- We remember that our homes, our bodies, our investment portfolios are not really **ours**.
- We remind ourselves that God owns it all and a **reckoning** day is coming.
- We will be called into account for how we **handled** the resources that God placed under our control!

QUOTE: There are always those who complain and say, "The church is after **money**." We must be careful to deal with the problem of criticism before it turns into the poison of bitterness. When a person is cut and injured, pain is associated with the wound. We never doubt the wisdom of the doctor who inflicts more pain on the already sore area by applying iodine or an antiseptic to the wound. The doctor doesn't do it to hurt needlessly, but to help in the healing process. Without the medication, there would be the risk of infection. Without the teaching on **stewardship**, Christians risk the infection of selfishness, materialism, and worldliness. *Townes*

VII. D – DEDICATE (#3) (2 Cor. 8:5; 1 Cor. 6:12-20)

- Friends, stewardship is about so much more than **money**.
- Stewardship month is a great time to restore your **fellowship** with God.
- What **joy** awaits those who do!
- Our God is like the Father in the story of the prodigal son, waiting with **open** arms!

♪ 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus