

LESSON #23

STEWARDSHIP

TEXTS: Matthew 25:14-30; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 11 Corinthians 8

INTRODUCTION:

There is hardly a subject that is so misunderstood and so badly neglected, or a subject that so many preachers neglect to teach, or a subject that so many members remember when he did preach on it.

Our lesson this week will be on STEWARDSHIP. The first thing that pops into our minds is **MONEY**, but I hope we will learn that STEWARDSHIP means much more than dollar bills.

Mr. Webster says that a steward "is one who manages the domestic concerns of a family or institution." Stewardship "implies making an increase for the owner or use as he authorizes."

In the beginning the Lord took man and put him in the Garden to dress and keep it (Genesis 2:15).

The very first man was a steward. You and I are stewards of God's world. God bestows life upon us. Whether it be long or not, it all comes to us by His good grace. He has given us His very own creation. He has given us certain abilities and skills, talents and time in which to use all these things.

I Corinthians 10:26, 'The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof.'

Deuteronomy 10:14, "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's...'

Psalms 50:10, 11, "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains; and the wild beasts of the field are mine.'

Haggai 2:8, 'The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.'

Ezekiel 18:4, "Behold, all souls are mine."

I Chronicles 29:11-14

In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) these men were stewards of the master's goods

Mark 10:17-22 - rich young ruler

I Timothy 6:10

John 12:3-6 - Judas ;

We too, just like Judas, are stewards in charge of the Master's bag. The question: are we stealing from it?

Acts 5 - Ananias and Sapphira

Mark 12:41-44 - widow

I Corinthians 16:1-4

I. Five questions regarding the collection are answered in verse two, HOW? WHY? WHEN? WHO? WHAT?

1. WHEN - upon the first day of the week.
2. WHO - each one of you. Every Christian should have the opportunity of making his contribution, so as each may share in the service of the Master.
3. WHAT - lay by in store a part of that which you have been blessed with.
4. HOW - As he may prosper. To prosper literally means to gain or receive something. One gives as he has gained or received.
5. WHY - That no collections be made when I come.

The object here is that the collection may be ready when Paul comes, and there will be nothing to do but lift it up and put it to work in helping the suffering of the saints in Judea, or wherever it would be used.

II Corinthians 8:1-5 - first gave themselves

II Corinthians 9:6-9 - give bountifully

II Corinthians 9:13-15 - proves your love.

'What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?' (Psalms 116:12)

Old Testament examples:

Genesis 14:20

Genesis 28:20-22

Leviticus 27:30-33

Numbers 18:21, 24

Deuteronomy 14:22-29

Tithe is not binding today. In the New Testament we as Christians are told to give out of our (deei) love for God.