

# **Biblical Foundations Stewardship Academy**

## **Focus from *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles Lane**

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### **Old Testament Overview:**

#### **Alms, Tithes, Offerings, Sacrifices ...What does it all mean?**

Numbers 18

Leviticus 27

Deuteronomy 12

Deuteronomy 14

### **It All Belongs To God**

#### ***Connecting Gifts and Stewardship***

Gifts (*suggest a transfer of ownership*)

Psalm 24:1-3

Deuteronomy 8:11-18

Genesis 1:27-28

Psalm 8:3-5

Humanity has the highest place in created order

Psalm 8:6

A delegation of authority occurs here

There is never a transfer of ownership.

Steward...Not the owner

Genesis 43 and 44

The steward has the position of high authority in the house of the owner and is given great responsibility.

Matthew 25:14-25

The steward cares for the possessions of the owner, both for the benefit of the owner and for the benefit of other people who depend on the owner for their well being.

What does this mean for us today?

Caution 1: We have a false sense of ownership.

Caution 2: We have what we have because we deserve it and because we have earned it by our intelligence and hard work.

### **Money and Possessions and the New Testament**

#### ***The Threat of Money and Possessions***

Matthew 6:24

You cannot serve money God and wealth. Trust in Jesus OR Trust in wealth.

1 Timothy 6:6

Jesus wants your trust and knows that if you trust your wealth and him, it will be an impossible situation.

Luke 18:18-25/Mark 10:21 (illustrates Jesus emotion)

Jesus' example that you cannot serve God and wealth.

*Leaving and following examples...*  
Matthew 4:18-22 (Is more harder to leave?)  
Luke 18:25 (Wealth and the Kingdom of God)  
Luke 12:16-21 (Bigger Barns)

### **Duty of Being Wealthy**

Luke 16:19-31 (Rich Man and Lazarus)  
Matthew 25:31-46 (Sheep and the Goats)  
Acts 2:44-45 (Sharing)  
Acts 4:34-35 (Reports of the Sharing)  
2 Corinthians 8 (Contributions to the collection for the saints)

*Themes:* Christian duty to give generously to the needs of others.

*How do we battle against the threat of wealth?*

Recognize the duty of wealth  
Give generously of what God has entrusted to us

## **Portrait of a Biblical Giver**

*Key Question for Stewardship Leaders:*

How can we lead this congregation's stewardship ministry so that each person in the congregation is encouraged to ascribe to and practice these biblical characteristics?

- Value #1 Intentional**  
Develop a plan and follow through. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
- Value #2 Regular**  
Establishing a pattern in your giving and following the pattern.
- Value #3 Generous**  
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Luke 12:34)  
God's generosity (2 Corinthians 9:8)  
Generous giving (2 Corinthians 8:1-2)
- Value #4 First**  
Giving to God first and then living off the rest (Deuteronomy 26:1-2)
- Value #5 Proportional**  
Give in proportion to the blessings you have received. (Mark 12:41-44)  
Percentage giving is a two-edged sword.
- Percentage giving is a word of great comfort for those with little financial resource.
  - Percentage giving calls those with great financial resources to account if their gift is larger in dollars but still quite small in percentage.
- Value #6 Cheerful**  
God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)  
The clue to being a cheerful giver is found in the words that surround Paul's statement that God loves a cheerful giver.

**Luke 12:32-34**

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

NOT

For where your heart is, there your treasure will be also.

Often misread and misunderstood.

Is the focus on changing people's hearts?

OR

Is the focus on changing people's actions?

**Start with Tithing and Grow as a Giver**

What have we been taught about tithing? By whom?

What is our impression of tithing for ourselves today?

Is the idea of tithing as a "Spiritual Discipline" law or gospel?

## **Stewardship as a FAITH Response**

"People know that giving their money is a spiritual response to God's gift of our salvation. Giving liberally is a direct consequence of commitment to Christ. Christian stewardship is a spiritual matter. The writer of 1 John declares: We love because God first loved us (4:19). We know how to express Christian love because we have first experienced the sacrificial love of Jesus Christ. In the same way, we give to express our appreciation for the greatest gift of all –the gift of our redemption." *Generous People*, p. 78

### **God the giver**

John 3:16	Romans 2:4, 7	1 John 5:11	2 Corinthians 9:15
Genesis 1:26-30	John 3:34	John 10:10	

### **Jesus the giver**

Acts 10:38	Philippians 2:5-8	John 6:38	Luke 22:19-20
Hebrews 10:7	Hebrews 12:2	2 Corinthians 8:9	

### **Gifts Given by the Holy Spirit**

Luke 2:25-26	Luke 12:11-12	John 14:25-26	John 16:12-15
Acts 1:8	Acts 4:31	Romans 5:5	Romans 8:14-16
Romans 8:26	Titus 3:5		

## **Stewardship and Mission Interpretation**

You are God's chosen and special people. You are a group of royal priests and a holy nation. Now you must tell all the wonderful things that God has done. *1 Peter 2:9*

## **Stewardship and Giftedness**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. *Romans 12:3-8*

<sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. *2 Timothy 1:6-7*

## **Gifts in different contexts**

Romans 12:6-8	1 Corinthians 12:8-11	1 Corinthians 12:28-31
Ephesians 4:7-8	1 Peter 4:10	Romans 4:5
2 Corinthians 9:8	Ephesians 4:15-16	John 10:10
Matthew 25:14-25	Luke 4:16-20	Matthew 14:22-32

Deuteronomy 30:19

Jeremiah 1:6-8

1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

Ephesians 4:11-12

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Psalms 139:13-16

John 21:15-17

Luke 11:3-9

1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11

Romans 12:4-5

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

John 17:18

1 Samuel 3:1-18

What did you learn about gifts?

What themes emerge about gifts?

How do you see these applying to your daily life?

How do you see these applying to the way you lead stewardship?