

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

Bishop John A.M. Guernsey

“Now after a long time the master of those servants
came and settled accounts with them.”
(Matthew 25:19)

Jesus teaches that our money and possessions can be assets in our relationship with God. We can use what he has entrusted to us in a way that honours him and draws us closer to him.

We see this in stories like the widow with two tiny, copper coins, who gave all that she had to the Lord and thereby showed more love for God than in all the superficial gifts of the wealthy. Or the Good Samaritan, who gave his own resources to care for the man beaten by robbers, and showed what it is truly to love one's neighbour. Or Zacchaeus, who was so transformed by Jesus that he gave away half of all he had and repaid fourfold all those he had cheated.

But Jesus also teaches that money can be a great threat to our relationship with God.

We see this in the stories like the rich young ruler, who, when called to give away all he had and follow Jesus, turned and went away sorrowful. Or the rich fool, who had so much money stored up that all he could think to do was to use it to tear down his barns and build bigger ones, so he would be secure and comfortable in his retirement. But the message to him was, “Fool! This night your soul is required of you. And these possessions, whose will they be?” So it is with those who are rich but not rich towards God.” (Luke 12:20-21)

Jesus is saying that whether you are as rich as the rich young ruler or as poor as the widow with her two copper coins, what you do with your money is a spiritual matter. It affects for good or ill your relationship with God.

Think about the servants in the Parable of the Talents. How did the way they invested what was entrusted to them reflect their relationship with their master?

We are to use what God gives us in a way that glorifies him, giving joyfully and generously to those in need. One day we will all face the Lord and be called to account for how we have used every dollar he has entrusted to us. As Paul wrote, “It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

In what ways are you honouring God by the way you use what he has entrusted to you?

Where are you falling short of true faithfulness as a steward of God's resources?

What is the next step for you in your giving?

PRAYER:

Lord, I desire for my relationship with you to grow. Help me to use my time, talents, and possessions to draw nearer to you and to invest in what truly matters. Amen.

