

Faithful Stewardship
1 Corinthians 4:2

Introduction:

Illustration: of a man who goes away and gives his friend \$5,000 and while being gone asks for a little at a time and eventually the man begins to think the traveling man is greedy but her forgets it is the man's money. (This is in choppy summary form)

1. Many times people look at stewardship and try to reason with what they have. The problem with this idea is the have become to think they own or possessed what they have.
2. We as Christians sometimes forget that God owns everything and it is not what we are going to give to Him, but what are we going to give back to Him that He has already given us.
3. Becoming a faithful steward of God not only promotes individual growth but also the growth of the church.

Body:

I. What is stewardship?

A. First, giving is mentioned over 1,500 times in the Bible. (more than baptism)

B. Steward—one who looks after something which belongs to someone else.

1. Banks do this- do you want an unfaithful bank?
2. Trust funds
3. Friends watching your house

C. 2 Types of Stewards (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

1. Faithful- under rowers
2. Unfaithful- parable of the talents

D. Realizing that it is not our money

1. Job 41:11- whatever is under the whole heaven is mine
2. Psalms 24:1- the earth is the Lord's and all it contains

II. Our handling of money will affect our eternity

A. God has three choices

B. Realize riches can blind one to heavenly things (Matthew 19:16-22)

1. Verse 16: He was humble and wanted to go to heaven
2. Verses 17-20: Had kept commandments, asked if anything else was lacking
3. Verse 21: Jesus knew his heart and saw the thing he was lacking
4. Verse 22: Riches stopped him at heaven's door knob

C. Luke 16:10-15

1. Verse 10: A poor manager of little would be a poor manager of a lot.
2. Verse 11: Failure to be faithful with God's money will deprive one of true riches (like joy & contentment).
3. Verse 12: If one does not respect things belonging to others, why should he have anything of his own?
4. Verse 13: Man cannot be committed to Christ and driven by love of money.
5. Verses 14-15: Undue emphasis on money will cause one to ridicule preaching on giving and things of eternal value.

III. **How are we to give?**

A. We should give humbly (Matt. 6:1-4)

B. We are to give willingly (2 Cor. 9:1-5, 7).

- C.** We are to give cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7).
- D.** We are to give bountifully (2 Cor. 9:6).
- E.** We are to give purposefully (1 Cor. 16:1-3; 2 Cor. 8:12)
- F.** We are to give lovingly (1 Cor. 13:3).
- G.** We are to give completely and totally (Mark 12:41-44).

Conclusion:

We are to give so that God will bless us in return (Malachi)

1. Do we give to our government or our mortgage company something we would not give God
2. God has never wanted us to tempt him in anything besides in our giving, it almost seems that we try to tempt Him in every way but this
3. Giving is for us, not for God, God wants to bless us so unimaginably but He wants us to put Him to the test, if we don't then He is not going to share His blessings