

Stewardship


Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

December 2024

As we prepare for the coming of Christ during Advent, the church points us both backward to his coming in humility as Messiah and forward to his coming in glory as judge. When he came as Messiah, he inaugurated the Kingdom of God among us. As judge, he will ask us to account for the life he gave us, how freely we shared this life with those around us.

He will also ask us how we treated the ones he calls “the least of these my brethren” (Matthew 25:40), those people around the world whose suffering and needs are greater than ours. Did we afford them the same dignity and respect we would give our friends or family? Did we look upon their hurts with compassion and try to alleviate their suffering? Did we recognize

them as our brothers and sisters, equal heirs with us of the kingdom of heaven?

Throughout the world, organizations are committed to helping the victims of economic, natural, or political disasters. As we ponder Jesus’ concern for the least of his brethren, we may consider whether we wish to help people in emergency conditions like these. 

*G*iving is a time for each one of us to be joyful and thankful to God for all he has given and daily gives to us. We receive from God in order to give. Jesus said, “Give and it shall be given to you.”





Daily Gift Search...

Here's a stewardship-awareness activity you can easily conduct with your entire family. Write each of the following scriptures on a separate piece of paper:

1 Samuel 1: 24-28

Mark 12:41-44

Ruth 1:16-17


2 Kings 4: 8-10

1 Samuel 18: 3-4

Acts 16:15

Luke 10: 30-36

Take the seven pieces of paper, put each one in a separate envelope, and seal it. Write a different day of the week on each envelope. Each day, have your child open the appropriate envelope and locate the Scripture in the Bible. After reading the verses aloud, ask him or her to identify what gift each Bible character gave to others or to God.

Discuss the fact that gifts were not always things that could be purchased with money. Talk about ways you and your child can begin sharing gifts such as these ... and special gifts or talents each of you might have ... with God and others. 



"I know God loves a cheerful giver, Pastor, but my Bob is living proof that God will also receive from a grouch."



Tithing one's income to the Lord is commendable. Even more commendable is tithing, not only financial resources, but the tithing of one's time and talent; indeed, it is the tithing of all of the gifts God has allowed us to have.



Some sixty years ago, a pastor named Robert Goodrich was assigned to a church in El Paso, Texas. He had not been there long when he noticed a letter that had arrived with several offering envelopes in it. On each envelope the words “My Tithe” were written in red. Pastor Goodrich noticed a short note which read simply: “I can’t attend church any longer; I am bedfast now, but here is my tithe.”

The pastor’s interest was stirred. He asked someone about the sick man and learned that he lived in a small lean-to shack behind someone’s house. His name was Joe Prime and he had severe tuberculosis. Fortunately for Joe, a Christian nurse volunteered to stop and see him each morning on her way to work. She prepared his food for the day and gave him whatever medical help she could provide.

Soon, Rev. Goodrich went to pay a visit to the suffering man. Upon entering the one room house, he saw only Joe, a bed, a refrigerator, a table and a couple of chairs. Obviously, Joe had very few material goods. The pastor learned that he had a small pension of only thirty dollars a month.

What impressed the pastor most, however, was the spiritual depth of Joe Prime. Immediately, he could tell by Joe’s upbeat demeanor and his expressed love for God and the church

that Joe Prime was a person who knew God intimately. Joe was a man of gentle love, a man of prayer, and one who gave a tithe even of his meager income. Spiritually, he was a very healthy man.


The Christmas gift

The pastor was so impressed by the ailing man that he thought he deserved a Christmas gift from the church’s fund for the needy.

A few days before Christmas, Rev. Goodrich went to see Joe with \$100 in an envelope. When he entered the little shack, he handed the envelope to Joe telling him that the church wanted him to have \$100 for Christmas. He could spend it anyway he wished, he was told.

Joe’s eyes lit up, the tears began streaming down his cheeks.

“This is so wonderful.” he said, “Now I’ll be able to do something I’ve never been able to do before. I’d like to give \$50.00 to the orphanage and \$50.00 to missions.” And that is what was done.

One day, not long afterward, the nurse came to prepare his food and give him his medicine. Upon entering the little room, she found Joe Prime had gone to be with the Lord. Near his body, on the table, she found three or four church envelopes and on each of them the words “My Tithe” were written. 

Of course, the church needs our money if it is to do God’s holy work of ministering his love to his people. But as great as this need is, we have a prior and greater need, and that is to use rightly all that God has entrusted to us. We have a great need to give lovingly, with thanksgiving to God.





Steward of the Month

A Friend To All

Submitted by: Yvonne, Aurora, CO

A long time member of our parish here in Aurora, Colorado, Melba Taylor gives much more than she ever receives. She is an active member and lay leader at the church. Melba prepares and serves breakfast to the youth of our church on Sunday mornings, and works with the youth. She is also in charge of our kitchen and helps prepare the monthly luncheon meal following our Communion mass. She is well known in our church and is an active member of the Women's Group. When Melba hears of a member who is ill, she visits and helps when possible. Melba is a senior citizen, but one that never stops helping others. We at the parish dearly love her and look forward to seeing her smile on Sunday mornings. She is a true Christian. ☩



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