

SCRIPTURAL TEXTS RELATING TO STEWARDSHIP

Much of scripture reminds us that God calls us to lives of stewardship. These texts can be effectively used in stewardship talks and homilies.

OLD TESTAMENT

The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate and care for it. Genesis 2: 15

This is what the Lord then said to Moses: "Tell the Israelites to take up a collection for me. From every man you shall accept the contribution that his heart prompts him to give me." Exodus 25: 1-2

When the whole Israelite community left Moses' presence, everyone, as his heart suggested and his spirit prompted, brought a contribution to the Lord for the construction of the meeting tent, for all its services, and for the sacred vestments...Every Israelite man and woman brought to the Lord such voluntary offerings as they thought best, for the various kinds of work which the Lord had commanded Moses to have done. Exodus 35: 20-21, 29

All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees, belong to the Lord, as sacred to Him. Leviticus 27: 30

No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you. Deuteronomy 16: 16-17

Each year you shall tithe all the produce that grows in the field you have sown... so that the Levite who has no share in the heritage with you and also the alien, the orphan and the widow who belong to your community, may come and eat their fill so that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you undertake. Deuteronomy 14: 22, 29

"...and the measure of your own free will offering shall be in proportion to the blessing the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you...no one shall appear before the Lord empty handed, but each of you with as much as they can give in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you." Deuteronomy 16: 10, 16-17

When you have come into the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have occupied it and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest from the land which the Lord, your God, gives you, and putting them in a basket, you shall go to the place which the Lord, your God chooses for the dwelling place of his name. There you shall go to the priest in office at that time and say to him, 'Today I acknowledge to the Lord, my God, that I have indeed come into the land which he swore to our fathers he would give us.' The priest shall then receive the basket from you and shall set it in front of the altar of the Lord, your God. Deuteronomy 26: 1-4

For all in heaven and on earth is yours; yours, O Lord, is the sovereignty; you are exalted as head over all. Riches and honor are from you and you have dominion over all. Chronicles 29: 11-12

But who am I, and who are my people, that we should have the means to contribute so freely? For everything is from you and we only give you what we have received from you. For we stand before you as aliens: we are only your guests, like all our fathers. Our life on earth is like a shadow that does not abide. O Lord, our God, all this wealth that we have brought together to build you a house in honor of your holy name come from you and is entirely yours.

1 Chronicles 29: 14-16

Give alms in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, distribute even some of that. But do not hesitate to give alms; you will be storing up a goodly treasure for yourself against the day of adversity. Tobit 4: 8-9

The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. Psalm 24: 1

How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? Psalm 116: 12

In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of free will gifts. With each contribution show a cheerful countenance, and pay your tithes in a spirit of joy. Give to the Most High as given to you, generously, according to your means. Sirach 35: 7-10

Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits of all your produce; then will your barns be filled with grain, with new wine your vats will overflow. Proverbs 3: 9-10

One man is lavish yet grows still richer; another is too sparing, yet is the poorer. He who confers benefits will be amply enriched, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. Proverbs 11: 24-25

Let your hand not be open to receive and clenched when it is time to give. Sirach 4: 31

The word of the Lord came to me thus: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations, I appointed you...To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord. Jeremiah 1: 4-5, 7-8

NEW TESTAMENT

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroy, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. Matthew 6: 19-21

Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. Matthew 10: 8

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood. Mark 12: 41-44

Anyone who has ears ought to hear. Take care what you hear. The measure with which you measure will be measured out to you, and still more will be given to you. To the one who has, more will be given; from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. Mark 4: 23-25

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him and asked him, ' Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ...Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, 'You are lacking in one thing. Go sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then, come follow me.' Mark 10: 17-21

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you. Luke 6: 38

Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more. Luke 12: 48

Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple. Luke 14: 33

We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen. 1 Thessalonians 1: 2

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need. Acts 4: 32-34

In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20: 35

He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Romans 8: 32

For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith, if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Romans 12: 4-8

Thus one should regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Now it is of course required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. 1 Corinthians 4: 1-2

Who confers distinction upon you? What do you possess that you have not received? But if you have received it, why are you boasting as if you did not receive it? 1 Corinthians 4: 7

Indeed, I wish everyone to be as I am, but each has a particular gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. 1 Corinthians 7: 7

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10: 31

He indeed dies for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 2 Corinthians 5: 15

Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. 2 Corinthians 9: 6-8

My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4: 19

For we brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root of all evils and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains.

1 Timothy 6: 7-10

Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.

1 Timothy 6: 17-19

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment. Let your life be free from love of money, be content with what you have.

Hebrews 13: 1-5

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers: all good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father...

James 1: 16-17

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have good works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

James 2: 14-17

As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God; whoever serves, let it be with the strength that God supplies, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and dominion forever and ever.

1 Peter 4: 10-11

If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

1 John 3: 17-18

You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?...you are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must show before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5: 13-16

Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.

Matthew 22: 21

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me...Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.

Matthew 25: 34-36, 40

GOSPEL STORIES RELATED TO STEWARDSHIP

The Hidden Treasure- Matthew 13: 44

The Costly Pearl- Matthew 13: 45-46

The Feeding of the Multitude- Matthew 14: 13-21; Matthew 15: 32-39; Mark 6: 34-44;

Mark 8: 1-10; Luke 9: 10-17; John 6: 1-15

The Unmerciful Servant- Matthew 18: 23-35

The Generous Employer- Matthew 20: 1-16

The Wicked Tenants- Matthew 21: 33-46; Mark 12: 1-12, Luke 20: 9-19
The Servant Entrusted with Supervision- Matthew 24: 45-51; Luke 12: 42-46
The Talents- Matthew 25: 14-30; Luke 19: 12-27
The Good Samaritan- Luke 10: 25-37
The Friend at Midnight- Luke 11: 5-8
The Rich Fool- Luke 12: 16-21
The Vigilant and Faithful Servants- Luke 12: 35-48
The Barren Fig Tree- Luke 13: 6-9
The Tower Builder- Luke 14: 28-33
The Lost Coin- Luke 15: 8-10
The Prodigal Son- Luke 15: 11-32
The Unjust Steward- Luke 16: 1-7
The Rich Man and Lazarus- Luke 16: 19-31