

A Stewardship Minute

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

An introduction of Stewardship to the congregation

JUNE 2018

The June issue of *Stewardship* has a parable about a man who encountered the presence of God and made a vow to carve a wooden memorial in honor of God's love. But tiredness, cold weather, and other difficulties got the better of him, so he used the wood he had intended to use for the memorial for a fire. Only a tiny bit of wood was left for the memorial for God. Sadly, the memorial was so tiny; it could not be seen above the weeds and bushes.

The point of the tale is that our promises, vows and gifts to God should come first, not after we have used our best gifts for our own comforts. Similarly, 500 years before Christ, the prophet Malachi was upset because he saw many Jews were not honoring God as they had vowed to do. If they offered grain it was polluted. Animals offered to God were blind, sick or lame. The people were giving the worst of their possessions to God, while keeping the best for themselves. Malachi 1: 6-14 details how they were "cheating" God.

The article in *Stewardship* makes the point that it is not right to give God our leftovers; taking the best of our possessions for ourselves and giving God the least. It also makes the point that when we consider giving our good gifts to God first, then we find ourselves becoming spiritually healthy. Such health enables us to have blessings beyond all we could ever imagine. Offering our best to God brings joys everlasting.

Prayer: Dear God, please guide us in the way we live, serve and give. And may all of our deeds be for your glory. Amen.

*"A Stewardship Minute" is provided as a supplement to the **Stewardship** newsletter as part of your subscription. It can be read by the pastor, stewardship leader or lay reader during worship to briefly introduce and remind the congregation about the principles of stewardship each month. It may also be edited to fit specific needs. Used in this manner, it can significantly increase the general understanding of true giving.*

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