

Whoever finds his life will  
lose it, and whoever loses  
his life for my sake will  
find it.  
Mt 10:39

Share the teaching  
Guard the sharing

# Male Call

May 25, 2007

## Stewardship—The Lure of Our Stuff—Part II

6:00 – 6:05	1) Coffee & Donuts  2) Opening Prayer
6:05 – 6:25	1) Challenges: a) Take 5: [1) 5 min reading the Bible, 5 min in meditation, 5 min in prayer; 2) praying with your family]? b) Graphing your money and time usage?  2) Review a) We are stewards of ALL that God has created: material things and ourselves. b) Possessions are mentioned three times more than love in the Bible. Stewardship is God's way of raising people; we should beg to participate (2Cor 8:1-5) c) Everything must be secondary to seeking Jesus (Phil 3:7-11) d) We wrongly think that: i) We have earned our stuff (but God made us) ii) It is a zero-sum game (but God will bless us now and in eternity) e) You will find you cannot “do” stewardship on your own. God must do the work in us.  3) Seven reasons money is god-like <sup>1</sup> a) It outlives you b) Its circle of influence is greater c) It is mysterious d) It lives among things we are tempted to worship e) It mimics everything we are promised in the New Jerusalem f) It is an instrument you wield g) Everything can be economized  4) Proper attitude <sup>2</sup> a) Love of our stuff violates the first commandment (Ex 20:3) b) Yet, there is little Biblical warrant for giving up all your stuff

<sup>1</sup> Vincent, Mark. *A Christian View of Money*. Quoted in *God & Your Stuff*, p 26.

<sup>2</sup> *God & Your Stuff*, p 27.

	<p>i) Provide for family—1Tim 5:8; 1Thess 4:11-12; 2Thess 3:6-15</p> <p>ii) Help those in need, especially in the church—Prov 19:17; Rom 15:25-27; Gal 6:7-10</p> <p>iii) Support the work of the Gospel—1Cor 16:1-3; Phil 4:14-19; 1Tim 5:17-18</p> <p>5) Why should we give?</p> <p>a) <i>Imago Dei</i></p> <p>6) How much should we give?</p> <p>a) Biblical picture is one of war (e.g., 2Cor 10:3-5, 12:15; Eph 6:12)</p> <p>b) Recall WWII: spend as during a war and give to the war effort.<sup>3</sup> Be content with a simple life and invest in what counts.</p> <p>c) Abide in Christ and know the freedom that comes with it.</p> <p>7) How do we learn contentment?</p> <p>a) Seek first God’s kingdom and God’s righteousness, all you need will be added to this—Mt 6:33</p> <p>b) Trust God and let go.</p> <p>i) Ecc 2, 11:13-14</p> <p>ii) Lord of the Rings movie clip</p>
6:25 – 7:00	<p>Interaction and prayer</p> <p>1) One use of possessions is a “heart test.” For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Mk 6:21).</p> <p>a) What are your treasures?</p> <p>b) Where are they?</p> <p>2) Paul tells us to test ourselves (2Cor 13:5). How are you using God’s possessions of which you are the steward as tools, tests, and trademarks?</p> <p>3) What are some concrete ways in which we can be good stewards of God’s possessions?</p>
7:00	Closing Prayer

Further reading:

- The *Bible*
- Willmer, Wesley K., *God & Your Stuff*
- Cushman, Ralph Spaulding, *The Message of Stewardship*
- Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*
- Piper, John, *don’t waste your life*
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*
- Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*

<sup>3</sup> Piper, John. *Desiring God*. Quoted in *God & Your Stuff*, p 35.