STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS TO INCREASE STEWARDSHIP AWARENESS

Please note: In our years of work in stewardship education, a number of contacts have provided a variety of stewardship thoughts from many sources. Our intent is to continue to share what has been shared with us. Some of these thoughts have been attributed, others have not.

How to Use: You may consider including these thoughts in your church bulletin or newsletter as a stewardship highlight to help keep stewardship awareness in front of your members.

1. What is stewardship? Simply stated, stewardship is using the gifts God has given us to do the things God asks (calls!) us to do.

2. Did you know. . .
   The Bible deals with our possessions in:
   - Over 2,100 verses
   - 1/6 of New Testament
   - 2/3 of Jesus' parables

   OR

   Two-thirds of Jesus' parables have to do with our possessions. There are 500 verses on prayer, 500 on faith and 2,000 on things we accumulate. In the four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), 1 out of 7 verses deal with giving or sharing with the world.

3. Stewardship is discipleship.
   How much is yours? How much is God's?
   Actually, all we have, all we are, belongs to God. Everything!

4. The 4 D's of stewardship: Desire -> Decision -> Discipline -> Delight - Rev. Henry Wildeboer

5. **Stewardship of Time**: The secret to time management is not learning how to save time or to get more of it; the secret is knowing how to use it.

6. **Trusting** comes before giving. It teaches a reliance on God that is fundamental to our relationship with Him.

7. **Contentment** is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of how much you already have.

8. Christian giving is the normal, steady, increasing outflow of the Christian life.

9. Christ's standard for giving is not how much we give, but how much we hold back for ourselves. – T.A. Kantonen

10. Spiritual benefits of a good steward:
    - Deepened trust in God
    - Reordering of personal priorities
    - Experiencing God's abundance in providing for your needs

11. Stewardship is not a destination, it is a process.

12. Stewardship is not how much we give, it is how we live.

13. Stewardship is everything you do after you say "yes" to Jesus Christ. – C. Stoughton

14. God gives where he finds empty hands. – St. Augustine

15. A Christian steward celebrates thanksgiving every day because he/she realizes God's giving is continuous.

16. **Society says**: You will find happiness and peace as you accumulate enough wealth to support your desired standard of living. **Scripture says**: You can be content in every circumstance as you follow the scriptural principles of how to handle your possessions.

17. **God calls us all to be good stewards. What is a steward?**
    A steward is someone…
    Who has been entrusted with another's wealth or property,
    Charged with the responsibility of managing it,
    In the owner's best interest.

18. To have more, desire less.

19. Stewardship affects lifestyle….Giving is an outcome of stewardship.

20. "God is not indifferent to our daily financial chores, but is interested in transforming all of our lives." - Wesley K. Wilmer, God and Your Stuff

21. Give the "Master" charge of your life instead of giving your life to your "Master Charge".

22. Don't set your lifestyle based on your income, set your lifestyle based on how you believe God wants you to live. If God provides you with extra funds, pray about what He wants for this excess.

23. Martin Luther once said: "People go through three conversions in the Christian faith: their head, their heart, and their pocketbook—unfortunately, not all at the same time!"

24. Serving God's purpose in the world is a cause of celebration. Giving is an expression of our daily lives.

25. Christian giving is to be more delight than drudgery, more privilege than pressure, and more anticipation than anxiety. – Christian Stewardship Assoc.

26. As we give of ourselves, we are able to receive.

27. What is stewardship? It is the Christian's management of lifestyle which results in generous giving of time, talent and treasure.

28. Where God breaks in on a sufficiently prepared people, a new outgoing, spontaneous, free and joyous generosity emerges!

29. Think of each day as an opportunity for effective stewardship. Time is a precious commodity and we have a limited number of days, hours, and minutes. Ephesians 5:15-16 advises "Be careful how you live – not as unwise but as wise." It is similar to the well-known motto "carp diem." The Latin admonition to "seize the day." The believers' motto is "carpe diem por deo" seize the day for God." In other words, live every day and use every opportunity expressly for his glory and purposes. – Stewardship Strategies/Kirk Nowery

30. When we acknowledge God's ownership, every spending decision becomes a spiritual decision. – Larry Burkett

31. Never measure your generosity by what you give but rather by what you have left. – Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

32. We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. –Winston Churchill

33. You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

34. Charity begins at home but generally dies because of lack of exercise.

35. Seek joy in what you give, not in what you get.

36. Stewardship is the act of organizing your life so God can spend you. – Lynn A. Miller, Author

37. Real charity doesn't care if it's tax deductible or not.

38. Nothing is more dangerous than to be blinded by prosperity – John Calvin

39. It's a myth that if I get more, I will be more important. Self-worth and net worth are not the same. Your value is not determined by your valuables, and God says the most valuable *things* in life are not things!

40. The most common myth about money is that having more will make me more secure. It won't Wealth can be lost instantly through a variety of uncontrollable factors. Real security can only be found in that which can never be taken from you – your relationship with God.

41. The value of a gift is not determined by its amount but by the spirit in which it is given.