

22Y03 Stewardship is Thankfulness

Hello my friends. From America Hello. I hope you are doing well today. I know some of you know us, but for those of you who don't. We are PUNLA Christian Ministries. My name is Kip. We have been very blessed to be part of what God is doing in Bicol. I'm so very thankful that God has allowed someone like me, a broken, messed up sinner, to be part of His Bigger, Better Story in many of your lives in Bicol.

So, our theme is Stewardship. But what is stewardship. Stewardship is the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. But stewardship of what? Well, everything. Your money yes but also you. Your body, your time, your energy, your things. Put simply. Stewardship is how we use what we have. In God's economy, we use what God has given us, our everything, for His purposes. Godly stewardship is doing things the way God wants us to do things. So, yes, it is a lot more than money. Godly Stewardship is a way we show our thankfulness to God for what He has done for us.

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father. We know You made all things from the stars and planets to the microbes in the depths of the sea, to every grain of sand on the beach. I know you know my name and know the very number of hairs on my head. You alone are worthy of my praise. All honor and glory are yours. Help us to follow you and allow your will to be done in our lives and in the places we live. I'm so very thankful to have the opportunity to share the words you have giving us to speak. I pray for everyone listening that I might hear what you need them to hear. Use me anyway you choose. I trust and love you, Lord Jesus. I pray all these things in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Stewardship is a core principle of living as a Christian. We believe everything belongs to God, so we should use what he has entrusted us with the way He wants it to be used. And that includes our life and everything we have. Even the people God brings into our lives. Every situation we are put in in life is about God. How we conduct ourselves. What we say and what we do are all part of stewardship to God.

We show God our thankfulness when we are good stewards of what He has given us.

I like these verses from 1 Peter 4. 1 Peter 4:9-10 (NKJV), *⁹Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

We should share what God has given us with a cheerful heart. Without grumbling. I think we forget this sometimes. It's like okay, I'll share grumble, grumble, grumble. Well, when I do this, my heart is not in line with God. I'm doing things for the wrong reasons. A thankful heart is cheerful, joyful. We are happy when we share.

Okay sharing is only part of Stewardship. To be a good steward according to God, we have to do thing the way God wants them done. Believe it or not that does not always mean sharing everything. God chooses, not us. I think the parable of the faithful and evil servants in Luke 12:35-48 addresses this. My favorite verse is often paraphrased, it says **“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required” (NKJV)**

I urge you to read this entire parable but we need to understand that everything we have is really God’s. We are only allowed to use it. How we use it matters. That is stewardship. We are required to use all things the way God wants them used. If we don’t, there are consequences. If we use things well and do things God’s way, then there are many promised rewards. To those much is given, much is required. We have all been given much. No matter your life situation, you have things to share and use. It might be your time, your talents, your resources including money and other things you have.

We need to pray for God’s guidance in using His things. When you understand that thing to cherish most really belongs to God. You are more thankful. You value the things more because they are gifts from God. It’s easier to share because they are not really ours.

So, what does it look like to do this? We are an example; PUNLA Christian Ministries was started with this purpose. We use the resources God has given us, money, time and energy for God’s plan there in the Philippines and beyond. God allow us to make money, then we honor God by using that money for things God wants us to do.

Let’s pray.

Heavenly father thank you. Thank you for this time. Thank you for everyone listening. You are God and we are not. Help us to remember you are the most important and we must put you first in everything we do, if we are to have the satisfying life you have promised us. Help us to resist our nature and focus on the things and people you want us to focus on. Give us the strength to say, “yes Lord” and do what you are calling each of us to do. We trust you, Father God. And we know you will guide our steps if we only surrender control of our life to you. I pray Lord for everyone listening. Speak to their hearts. Guide their steps. And if there is anyone who wants to know more about how to serve you, help them to contact me or someone at this local church how will pray with them and love them. You are my savior, Lord and friend. And I pray these things to you in your, my Lord and King, Jesus. Amen.

Good Stewardship. I want to leave you with one last thing. God loves us. As a Good Father, He gives us gifts. How we use those gifts is important. It does not matter how much you have, how use steward those things matters to God. What an honor to serve God and be part of His Bigger, Better story. Put God first in everything. Surrender everything to Him. He already owns it, you are just acknowledging the facts and surrendering control to the one who is already truly in control of everything. This is how

we can live right now in the Kingdom of God. By showing others what a citizen of the Kingdom looks like. Look in the mirror fellow Christians, it's you. It's a truly abundant life, a satisfying life with the only true riches in this world, the people God puts in your life to show His Love to.

I am so blessed to have this opportunity to share with you today. All of us at PUNLA Christian Ministries greet you from halfway around the world, in Houston Texas. Know without a doubt God loves you. My family knows the struggles you go through. Judy and Joy grew up right there in Bicol. They know how tough it is to be poor, to be hungry. Be certain, you are blessed in so many ways, you don't understand right now. But God cares for you. I'm proud of you. Surrender to God and let his Joy and Hope and Peace and Assurance wash over you like a waterfall. I look forward to hearing your stories in heaven someday or before.

We miss you and God Bless...

Examples

How you use your body (sex, drugs, drinking)

How you use your time (student manage time, work, video games, Facebook, social media instead of studying)

How you use your Talents (use them for God, music, IT skills, teaching,) not just at church

How you use your stuff (whatever you got.) school supplies, internet loads, allowances