

# Stewardship: Expressing Our Love for God

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – February 21, 2010

Mark 12:38-44

38 As he taught, Jesus said, "Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces, 39 and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 40 They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely." 41 Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. 42 But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. 43 Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. 44 They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

New Consecration Sunday Challenge (March 7):

We are being asked to prayerfully consider...

“What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?”

Consecration: the solemn dedication to a special purpose

Stewardship: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

It's not your wallet that God wants, it's your heart.

But until He gets your wallet, He'll never fully have your heart.

EXAMPLES:

Gen 4:3-5 (Cain & Abel)

3 In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. 4 But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on

Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor.

Today's Scripture:

Jesus wasn't impressed by the givers Huge Amounts...

He was impressed by the heart of this widow that gave out of her love for Him.

If we don't give, Why don't we? If we give, Why do we?

WRONG REASONS TO GIVE:

1. TO HELP THE CHURCH
2. AS A DUTY OR OBLIGATION
3. OUT OF HABIT
4. PEER PRESSURE
5. FEELING OF GUILT (OR GOD'S JUDGMENT) IF YOU DON'T GIVE

RIGHT REASONS TO GIVE:

1. GRATITUDE TO GOD
2. PART OF YOUR SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
3. WE'RE PRIVILEGED TO GIVE
4. A RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU (DEMONSTRATED BY CHRIST)

Today's Sermon: “Stewardship: Expressing Our Love for God”

Perhaps a better title is... “Stewardship: Responding to God's Love for Us”

As a response to God's love for you... "What percentage of your income is God calling you to return to Him?"