

Top Ten Stewardship Verses

From Rev. Chick Lane, Dir of the Center for Stewardship Leaders, Luther Seminary
Taken from the 2010 Rethinking Stewardship Conference

10: **2 Corinthians 8** -- "Anything you can do I can do better"

Generosity is not circumstantial and giving is a privilege. In this passage, Paul uses the story of the Macedonians' abundant generosity in the face of trial to encourage the Corinthians to give generously.

9: **Micah 6:8** -- "Three steps to the good life"

The focus of stewardship is not our money or our possessions, but rather the attitude of our heart. The attitudes of justice, kindness and humility shape the way we view, use and give our money and possessions.

8: **Luke 18:18-27 (Mark 10:17-22)** -- "Let's hope that camel has been on a diet"

Stewardship is a matter of the heart. Our possessions often interfere with our relationship with God, steering our focus from creator to creation. Although wealth brings many privileges and benefits, Jesus cautions his followers to beware of wealth's power to lure their hearts away from God.

7: **Genesis 1-2:4, especially 1:26-27, 31** -- "Who do you see when you look in the mirror?"

Stewardship originates from the creation story. In this story, God impresses God's own image upon humanity and charges humanity to care for all creation. God is the maker of all things and we are called to be responsible stewards of God's creation.

6: **2 Corinthians 9** -- "Reaping, sowing and your pearly whites"

God provides all that we need and we give in response to God's provision. As we give we not only meet the needs of others but we also give thanks to God.

5: **Luke 19:1-10** -- "So money does grow on trees"

Stewardship is, first and foremost, about relationships. Zacchaeus' relationship with his possessions, and by consequence his relationship with others, is affected by Jesus' initiation of a relationship with him. Our relationship with Jesus ignites within us a desire to use our possessions responsibly to meet the needs of others.

4: **Luke 21:1-4 (Mark 12:41-44)** -- "Two coins makes all the difference"

Jesus commends the widow for giving all that she had to live on. As stewards we are called to give our whole life—time, talent and treasure—to God. We are also called to create sustainable systems of giving so that the rich do not prosper at the expense of the poor. Stewardship is for everyone, the rich and the poor.

3: **Matthew 6:21 (Luke 12:34)** -- "Burying your treasure in the clouds"

"The point isn't that how we spend our money reveals what sort of people we are, but that how we spend money determines what sort of people we become." (Giving to God, Mark Allan Powell, Robert and Phyllis Leatherman professor of New Testament, Trinity Lutheran Seminary)

2: **Luke 10:25-37** -- "Yes, your neighbor includes that random naked guy"

The parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that we are called to care for all creation, including our neighbors. Good stewards recklessly give of themselves to their neighbor and in doing so model God's love for all creation.

1: **Matthew 25:13-40** -- "Where have you been hiding your money lately?"

The parable of the ten talents emphasizes that we are all stewards, no matter how little or how much God has entrusted us with. As stewards, how we spend, save and share our money matters to God.