

## Little Burgundy Book Stewardship Reflections on the Gospel of Luke

- Truth of stewardship – the need of the giver to give is greater than the need of others to receive. Even the Dead Sea is dead because it has no outlet. It continually receives water but never gives water.
- It isn't God who needs prayers, but the person praying who needs prayer.
- First generation Christians thought that Christ would return quickly, as time went on, people realized they need to be prepared for the long haul and have persistence in prayer.
- Prayer needs to happen daily. This is the hard part when my schedule gets busy. Stewardship involves planned giving, making time for God every day, first thing.
- Gratitude is at the heart of stewardship, a way of life.
- If I perform good works it is because God enables me to do so.
- Tithing is not new or strictly religious.
- The way a mother loves her children that's how God loves us.
- The only source of goodness is God. Jesus is no exception. The goodness of Jesus is the goodness of God working in him.
- All is a gift from God – people usually realize this in a flash of insight, not a long process.
- Am I using my gifts for the glory of God?
- We are the "rich" people Jesus is referring to when he said it's easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than a rich person to enter heaven.
- "Greater pleasure lies in the art of giving than receiving." James Cash Penney
- We give back not because things are evil but because it is for the sake of the kingdom of God, bringing people closer to Christ.
- For people who practice stewardship, the more you give away, the more you get.
- If you want more of something, you have to give it away.
- Much is expected of those who have been given more.
- Stewardship isn't complicated – give off of the top.
- We are called to nurture and develop our gifts and give back with increase.
- The Gospels were written in Greek. The word "alms" root word is "pity."
- Almsgiving results from a feeling of pity and compassion for someone in need. Stewardship goes further, it is based on the needs of others but also, in gratitude, for everything God has given us.
- 2011 Kent State University study – people who wrote letters of gratitude experienced greater happiness and more satisfaction in their lives. Write "gratitude journals".
- Stewardship expresses the very heart of the Eucharist – me and the assembly join together with Jesus in giving ourselves to the Father.
- "Greed"- Greek root word is "pleonexia" – the same term used in medicine for a condition where the blood wants to keep oxygen instead of distributing to other body tissues.
- There is no mystery – I am made in the image and likeness of God and I belong to God. Everything belongs to God and I am God's steward.
- If God loves a cheerful giver, I want you to be hilarious.
- Life is a process of giving and sharing. Jesus said that the way to fulfill yourself is you unfill yourself.
- The best golf grip is a loose grip – good lesson in stewardship – give freely and brings a peace of freedom and peace.
- Stewardship is not a single action or a series of actions, it's an entire way of life.