

Little Burgundy Book Stewardship Reflections on the Gospel of Matthew

- Fundamental element of Stewardship: Everything belongs to God.
- No matter my individual circumstances, I can do something with the gifts God has given me.
- Stewardship is a leap of faith in real-life situations.
- Jesus asked the apostles to follow him – it was a personal invitation.
- Let my light shine before others so that they may see my good works and give glory to God.
- “Mammon” means assets. Mammon only took on a negative connotation for Christians when people made their assets a god.
- Seven deadly sins: lust, gluttony, greed, sloth, wrath, envy and pride. Seven social sins: creating poverty, excessive wealth, pollution, contributing to economic gap between rich and poor, bioethical violations (i.e. birth control), morally dubious experiments (i.e. embryonic stem cell research), drug use.
- Stewards of the earth – cultivate and care for God’s creation.
- Is my life built on rock, putting into practice the things that I as a baptized person believe?
- Service measures success.
- “Never measure generosity by what you give, but rather by what you have left.” Archbishop Fulton Sheen
- I’ve got weeds in my life, some I put there myself. With the Lord’s help, it can all work out in the end.
- In the Old Testament times belonging to a group meant everything. Love meant accepting your connection to a wider group.
- What do you do with all your gifts? You are not only responsible for what you give away but also how you use what you keep for yourself.
- “We belong to God and not to ourselves. If God increases our work, he adds to our strength.” St. Vincent de Paul
- Magnanimity – greatness of the soul, enables me to think great thoughts. Am I willing to go for greatness in my life?
- I need to un-attach myself from activities and possessions so I can experience a sense of freedom. Giving “off the top” brings that same sense of an uncluttered life and a sense of peace and freedom.
- God works through us, everything comes from God.
- Am I moving towards God or away from God or am I drifting?
- What is the fruit that I am supposed to be producing for the Lord?
- Key to a peaceful heart: to hear the word of God and live it.
- Voluntary simplicity is cleaning out the clutter of my life and discarding activities/things that keep me from following the real desire of my heart.
- A good steward bears good fruit.
- “Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” Matthew 24:42
- There is no sin that Jesus spoke against so frequently as the sin of selfishness.
- My life will not just happen without some planning on my part. We have to use common sense, practical judgment in living out our Christian life.
- Gifts were given to me so that I can use them well on God’s behalf.
- “A cheerful giver does not count the cost of what he gives. His heart is set on pleasing and cheering him to whom the gift is given.” Julian of Norwich
- God calls each of us to act as a steward of his providence for our neighbor.