



### **Engage with God in Stewardship: Motivations in Stewardship**

Date: 11-05-2017      *"Motivations of Stewardship"*

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-21; Galatians 5:1-3; Matt 6:19-21; (c.f. Genesis 14)

Last week we looked at how "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." (Ps. 24:1) We looked at the big picture view of stewardship as God's entrustment to His image bearers with what He has made. Everything is made by God and for God but He has given dominion over it to us as stewards. For our purposes as Midland E-Free, the focus was on the stewardship of our money.

Now we move from dominion (God's) and stewardship (ours) in general to the *motivations* for stewardship. 2 Cor. 9:7 says that "God loves a cheerful giver," but we often find ourselves giving without the cheer. We find ourselves giving with a Scrooge-like attitude that lacks joy, pleasure, and gratitude.

#### **Engaging with the Text**

- Gen. 14:17-24 – Part of God's promise to Abram in Gen. 12 was land and wealth and yet Abram was called to give and gave willing to God. What allows Abram to give away the very thing that God promised that Abram should have?<sup>i</sup> (see also Abraham and Isaac – Gen 22)
- Matt. 5:17-20 – Jesus fulfilled the Law for us which includes laws regarding tithing. How does Jesus fulfill the law of tithing?
- How does Jesus' fulfillment of the tithing laws shape our stewardship today?
- Matt. 6:19-21:
  - What makes a treasure earthly focused?
  - What makes a treasure heavenly focused?
- Gal. 5:1-3:
  - How does our freedom in Christ shape our view of stewardship?
  - Why might adherence to the tithing laws in the OT actually restrict our ability and motivation to give?



### Applying the Text

- Feelings:
  - How do you feel when you give?
  - How do you feel when you give sacrificially?
  - Do you feel differently about your giving (or towards the person/cause you are giving to) when it is someone you think is deserving versus not deserving?
  
- Hindrances to Giving: What kinds of things keep you from giving to God/others as you should?
  
- Heart and Giving: What do your giving practices reveal to you about your heart?
  
- The Gospel and Giving: Though we can't out-give God, how does the gospel move us from an earthly to a heavenly focus regarding our stewardship?
  
- Should your finances look any different from others in your income bracket? If so, how?
  
- Share with your Group:
  - What is an example of when you were prompted by the Holy Spirit to give beyond your normal giving?
  - Do you have an example of when you knew the Holy Spirit was moving you to give and you said no?
  
- Changes and Giving: What steps have you been challenged to take in order to bring your thoughts/attitudes/motivations about giving more in line with God's?

For the week: Pray about how your giving can be shaped more by God's view of stewardship. Is there someone you know to whom you can bless by meeting a need they have?

Here is the linke to electronic giving for Midland Free <http://mefchurch.org/electronic-giving.html>

---

<sup>1</sup> 1 John 5:4