

Almighty & Sons, Inc.: Stewardship

The Eighth Commandment

“Work well done is art.” Benjamin Franklin

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here are times when our lives become so routine that we lose our sense of awe for God’s

creation. Sometimes we can get caught up in the despair of the world when we lose sight of the beauty around us. As you begin to grow in your Christian Walk, you can learn to tap into knowing the Creator as well as His creation. When you stop and think about it, who knows better about the invention than the inventor himself? God is the source of goodness and light; He desires us to enjoy all His creation and expects us to help manage His world and resources. One of the best ways to know God is to be a steward of His creation. God will reveal secrets to people who work with Him and have a relationship with Him. God is the original entrepreneur; to work is a calling not a curse. If we are going to mature into all God has for us, we need to view ourselves as sharing the management of His creation. We can begin by looking at things entrusted to our care. God is not in the business of compensating laziness or lack of effort and commitment. The Bible gives no endorsement to idleness. Hard work is a necessary condition on the road to successful Christian living. The great satisfaction in work is not just the work itself, but rather the exercise of self-discipline and persistence to get the job done. Let your work have a definite aim. It is important to acquire habits of order and determination. Diligent workers with earnest activity are the characteristics God is looking for and can co-labor with. How eager are you to tackle the job at hand and are you responsible to seal your work with the stamp of quality? Are you willing to step into a situation and offer your talents to bring positive attention to God which glorifies Him? How willing are you to share, give, and serve? Is there anything you would hold back from Christ if He wanted to use it for advancing the Kingdom? This week we will look at one boy’s contribution and his willingness to be used.

Stewardship

“After these things Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee (or Tiberius). A large crowd followed Him, because they saw the signs which He was performing on those who were sick. Then Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was nearby. Therefore Jesus, lifting His eyes and seeing that large of crowd was coming to Him, said to Phillip ‘Where are we to buy bread, so that these may eat?’ He was saying to test him, for He knew what He intended to do. Phillip answered Him; ‘Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, for everyone to receive a little.’ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him there is a lad here who has five barley loaves, and two fish, but what are these for so many people?’

Jesus said, 'Have the people sit down.' Now there was much grass in the place. So, the men sat down, in number about five thousand. Jesus then took the loaves and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise, also of the fish as much as they wanted. When they were filled, He said to His disciples, 'Gather up the leftover fragments so that nothing will be lost. So, they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten'" (John 6:1-13, New American Standard Bible).

DAILY BIBLE STUDY FOR CHAPTER 16

SPOTLIGHTING GOD'S WORD

Monday: 2 Thessalonians 3:10. What is the consequence of not working?

Tuesday: Philippians 2:1-5. List a few characteristics of how we should treat others.

Wednesday: Mark 12:41-44. Why did Jesus feel the widow was a good steward of her money?

Thursday: 2 Chronicles 15:7. What are we promised if our work is not slack?

Friday: 1 Corinthians 6:10. What is God's judgment upon thieves?

TAKE A STEP AHEAD WITH PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Thank You for creating the world. Remind me, You made it all and require me to contribute as a faithful steward. As I am a student, in the hands of my Master Teacher, help me experience the joy You want to share with me by working in my environment. Train me to be good a manager of Your creation. Remind me, it is the resources I control that force me to look at my value system.

Help me respect other people's property and possessions. Help me not to be tempted to steal or even think about taking something that does not belong to me. Develop in me a sense of usefulness in Your Kingdom work. Remind me of Your trust I want to earn over my own belongings and my home. Help me to see if I am holding back what I need to share. I know I might fall short from time to time, but I pray that I may be useful daily.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER

- **Have students look up the word "steward" in your dictionary. Define orally. Discuss with students this includes their work ethic, required chores, timely completion of schoolwork, the quality they bring to the job and the care of a sibling.**
- **Discuss with the students, resources (other than money) that God wants them to manage for Him. Use the list above but let them answer in more detail.**
- **Have students write out 1 Corinthians 4:2 and Colossians 3:23.**

Notebook Activities

- **Have students collect illustrations of anything they know they are stewards over such as nature scenes, belongings, bank statement.**
- **Find clippings from newspapers or off the Internet that show poor and good stewardship.**
- **Challenge students to write an essay describing how important it is to lead a God-pleasing life and how they must not harm their witness or biblical principles by stealing.**
- **On one page in their notebook clip or write examples of breaking and keeping the Eighth Commandment.**

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK! The Eighth Commandment
"Thou shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15)

Understand & Apply.

This commandment safeguards everyone's right to get and own property by following the rules. God wants that right honored and protected. We should fear and love God so much that we do not rob from our neighbor in any way or have any unfair dealing or fraud. We should never consider taking something that is not ours even if it seems minor.

