

S T E W A R D S H I P

A F A I T H J O U R N E Y

# Stewardship of Treasure



TRUST IN GOD

*The gift of treasure is a matter of the heart*

YOUR PARISH NAME HERE

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*“the gift of treasure is a matter of the heart”*

God does not need your money. He wants your HEART. He want you to TRUST in HIM and give your gift of treasure from your HEART.

**“For where your treasure is there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)**

Stewardship of treasure begins in the bible at the beginning in Genesis...  
the story of Cain and Abel.

*In the course of time Cain brought an offering to the Lord from the fruit of the soil while Abel, for his part, brought one of the best firstlings of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering He did not. Cain greatly resented this and was crest fallen. So the Lord said to Cain “Why are you so resentful and crest fallen? If you do well, you can hold up your head, but if not, sin is a demon lurking at the door. His urge is toward you yet you can be his master.”*  
*Genesis 4:3-7*

The story of Cain and Abel is truly the essence of Stewardship of treasure. To give your gift of treasure to God from your heart, with love, of the best that you can give not what is left over. (Just an offering.)

Giving a portion of your treasure each week is an act of true love for God as well as a matter of trust in Him. It is a test to see here your HEART truly lies. You can not out give God who not only gave you EVERYTHING you have but also gave His only son who suffered and died on the cross for you.

So how much of the gift of your treasure should you give back to God as a sacrifice to Him in thanksgiving for everything He has done? The bible, both old and new testament, tell us to tithe (give 10% of our first {earnings} fruits) and to TRUST in Him.

As we approach Christmas, the birth of our personal savior Jesus Christ let us look at the great example of Stewardship of treasure in the beginning of the New Testament at His birth. Three wise men traveled from afar bringing great gifts of their treasure to give to the baby Jesus, God.

Let each and everyone of us take some time to think of the gift you will give Jesus on His birthday. Then give that gift of your treasure to God from your heart. Let us be like the wise men from the east with our gift and let us be favored by God with the gift of our first fruit like Abel.

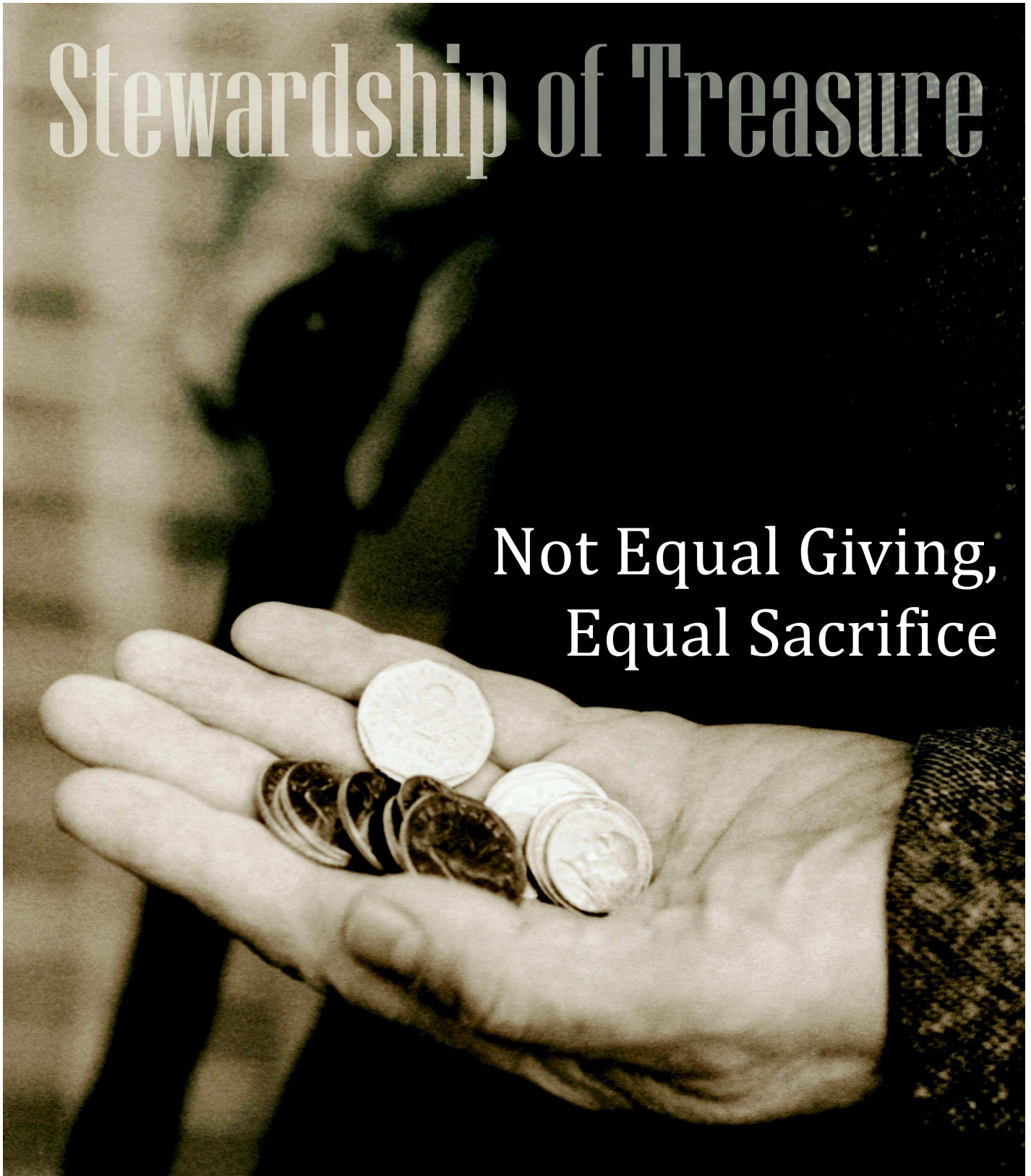
May God Bless each and everyone of you in this most special time.

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A F A I T H J O U R N E Y

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Not Equal Giving,  
Equal Sacrifice



*The gift of treasure is a matter of the heart*  
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# Stewardship of Treasure

*“the gift of treasure is a matter of the heart”*

We all have favorite bible stories. Even before I ever had thoughts of becoming someone who works with taxes, I loved the story of Zacchaeus (Luke Chapter 19). Maybe it was because he was short like me. But Zacchaeus also was a tax collector. Tax collectors in Jesus' time were considered sinners because they had the reputation for collecting more money than they were supposed to, keeping the extra for themselves. One day Jesus was in town and Zacchaeus wanted to see him, but he was too short to see Jesus over the crowd. He had an idea - he climbed a sycamore tree. From this tree he saw Jesus and Jesus saw him. The Lord called him down from the tree and to his salvation.

Since this was one of my favorite stories, years ago I did some further reading and it turns out that there is a legend about Zacchaeus. It says that for years he often rose early in the morning and left his house. Curious as to what he was up to, one morning his wife followed him. At the town well, he filled a bucket with water and he walked until he came to a sycamore tree. There, setting down the bucket, he cleared away the stones, branches, and rubbish that lay around the foot of the tree.

Having done that, he poured water on the roots and stood there in silence. When his amazed wife came out of hiding and asked what he was doing, Zacchaeus replied simply, "This is where I found Christ."

On the surface, it was just an ordinary tree, but what happened at that particular tree made it holy for Zacchaeus. It was there that he met Christ. St. Peter's is where we find Jesus. It is a holy place. To express our appreciation and to enable others to find Jesus, we, like Zacchaeus, bring our Stewardship of Treasure, an offering of love.

“How can I repay the LORD for all the good done for me?” Psalm 116: 12

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.” Luke 19:8-9

ALLOW YOUR HEART TO BE CHANGED BY CHRIST SO THAT YOU MAY EXPERIENCE THE TRUE TREASURE OF GIVING.