

Worthy Women's Words

Stewardship *by Vanessa Dixie*

As Christians, we are called to be stewards of the talents to which God has endowed us. These talents are given to us all liberally and according to the manner that our abilities can best utilize them to glorify God. We rarely own up to our talents publically, maybe for fear of seeming boastful or proud. The question was recently presented to our class on Stewardship by Brothers Tom Dickerson and Phil Yoho. "What are your Talents?" a plain question and one certainly with an answer. The Bible addresses the issue of talents, the dispensation of them to us, and our responsibility as stewards of them (Matthew 25:15).



More often than not, the mention of being a steward evokes the thought of money.

For me it was the image of a golden purse with wings flying heavenward. This was my wrong-headed thinking and my mind made up to believe that money was the gist of the subject. After a prolonged reassessment and time given in prayer, I have since determined that the subject of stewardship deserved a more expounded and less constrictive reference:

Stewardship. Faithful and responsible keeping of God's blessings of one's time, opportunities, finances and obedience in selfless giving.

This definition for me added to the whole concept to service in stewardship. Armed with this new perspective, I set out to create a "budget" so to speak of my talents. I commit to you these points to consider:

Time. Allotted specifically to worship, prayerful study, volunteering and socializing with the saints, collectively and individually.

Opportunity. Memorization of pivotal scripture references on authority (Matt 28:18), Jesus'

Stewardship—The management of another's property or financial affairs; administration of anything as the agent of another or others.

ministry and death (Luke 3:23; John 18:32, Romans 6:3), eternity (John 3:15-16, John 5:24) and controversial matters such as marriage, divorce and re-marriage (1 Cor 7:2,10, Hebrews 13:4, Matthew 19: 3-8), homosexuality (1 Cor 6:9), fornication (1 Cor 6:18), and the wages of sin (Romans 6:23). Knowing that in any situation, I may be called to give an answer.

Finances. *Pay God first!* I always intend to live within my means. Being fiscally responsible is the best lesson that I can teach my daughter. As a parent, the two most important talents that I have are the keeping of the flame of the gospel and being an exemplary steward

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Stewardship *concluded*

of my child's life. Her spiritual heritage was forged through songs and recounting of the history of her biblical family.

Obedience. Fixing my mind on the goodness of God and how much in love He is with me even in my helpless estate. Leaning and looking to touch His glory and resting in the thought that He and the angelic host rejoice in my spiritual successes and understanding at my contrite confessions. Obedience finds my willing heart tethered to His side. Through the gleam of His light to my understanding, the promised pearls of everlasting living and loving is all my heart can be filled and magnified.

Our stewardship in giving is never tested beyond what we can endure or accomplish and in doing so appropriately, conscientiously and selflessly, our efforts will be seen and blessed of God. We are commanded to be benevolent to others and our responsibility as stewards dictates that we do so for all (Gal 6:10). My greatest example of giving is with one among us. This one eagerly awaits the tray, deliberately and carefully places in the contribution and gives a sigh of contentment once the tray passes. We should aspire to have this attitude towards our stewardship in all of our giving.

The main point regarding our lessons on stewardship is less

about the diversity or dispensation of the talents. Rather, the whole of the matter is to put God first in the keeping of the blessings that He has given.

*What are your talents?
Name them in action,
one by one.*

One final note, I encourage you all to attend one of the marvelous Bible classes offered at the Temple Terrace church of Christ. Each class is carefully planned, prepared, presented and offers practical application for daily Christian living. I leave with many golden nuggets of wisdom which well equips me for the daily work in the Lord's vineyard. 

What Every Young Woman Should Know

by Joella Pickup

God gives marriage first priority in social relationships, because it answers in the best way the person's need for deep companionship, and because it blesses the bringing of children into the world. Proverbs 18:22 says, "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing . . ." Marriage is truly a holy estate, one to be desired deeply and honored faithfully. But it is for mature men and women, mature in body, mature in gender identity, having emotional maturity and ability to establish a home. It is to be a

pure relationship with faithfulness, truth, and love keeping it strong. Marriage is not just romantic exercise which you can do because you are legally of age, nor is it a trap to ensnare you, unless you let it degenerate to that level. Hebrews 13:4 says, "Let marriage be had in honor among all, and let the bed be undefiled . . ." It is the condition of life that our Worthy Woman entered and nurtured with all her talents. In turn, she was praised and blessed by her husband and children for her mastery of it. She was a **Master Homemaker**.

Malachi 2:15, 16 gives a terrible rebuke to the Jews who had put away the wives of their youth in order to marry foreign women. That breakdown of the Jewish family was one of the causes of the overthrow of the Jewish economy and their ultimate captivity. The same degeneracy many years later contributed to the downfall of the Roman Empire. And what do we have in America today? One of these days God will call for an accounting. Will any one of us be guilty of destroying a marriage—our own or someone else's? 