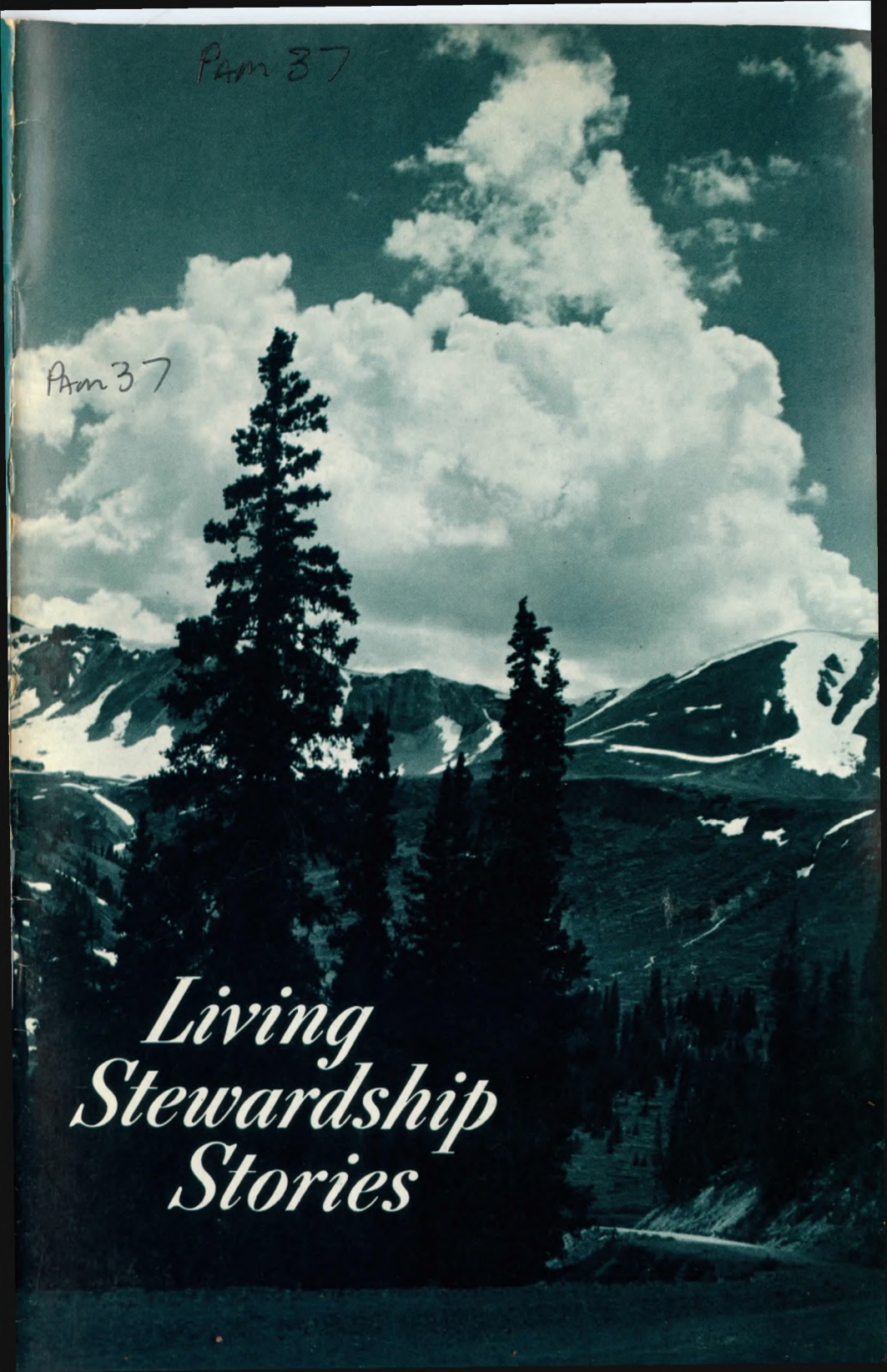


PAm 37

PAm 37



*Living
Stewardship
Stories*

FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

The following devotionals may be used in addition to your regular daily devotions for the next fourteen days.

These select Scriptures and stories are proposed to enrich your family in its endeavor to reach spiritual maturity.

Use these devotions as you normally do in your family worship. If you have no particular way, may we suggest the following order:

READ

the special Scripture passage suggested for the day.

READ

the verse noted as the text.

READ

the stewardship story.

DISCUSS

your thoughts about the selection.

CALL

upon someone to conclude in prayer.

T. L. O. K.

Read Matthew 25:14-20

Text: Verse 21

One day a father agreed to give his daughter a regular allowance provided she would keep an exact record of the way she used it. It came about in this way. When she came asking him for money, he would usually give it to her, but he did not know how she was using it and he often wondered if she knew. So he had suggested a plan by which he gave her a definite amount every week. Then at the end of each month she was to show what she had done with the money she received.

When the father looked over his daughter's account the first month, he found: "Church—so much." He was very glad to find that this represented a little more than one-tenth of all that he had given her. He had tried to teach her to recognize her stewardship of all she had, by setting aside at *least one-tenth* of all she received, so he was glad to see she had not forgotten her tithe and offering.

Then he went through the other items, "Clothes—so much," "Books—so much," "Club Dues—so much," "Recreation—so much."

He was glad, too, when he came to another item, "Savings—so much." He wished that it might have been a little more, but he was happy to see that his daughter realized that she must save some, even if only a little, of what she received.

But when he read the last item he was certainly puzzled. It read "T.L.O.K.—so much." The sum amounted to nearly one-fifth of the total amount she had spent.

He said, "Daughter, what is T.L.O.K.?"

And she said, "Well! you see it was this way. Sometimes I did not put down at once the sums I spent, and when I sat down to try to make up my account I could not for the life of me remember what I had spent my money for and could not make my accounts balance. I often found I had spent more than I had items to cover it, and so I had to group them all together under this title, T.L.O.K."

And he asked, "What does this mean?"

She replied, "The Lord Only Knows."

Many people are like this young woman. They do not understand where their money goes. Here a little, there a little; and before they know it, quite a part of their income has disappeared.

Perhaps it would be a surprise to some of us if we would actually put down and think over the amounts we spend for the different items which go to make up our account. Perhaps, if we kept account we would change some of the proportions of our expenditures. We might be able to give more away, to save a little more than we do, and to spend the rest more wisely. We should beware of T.L.O.K.

For consideration: Can a person count himself a good steward if he handles the money of another in a careless way?

HIS MOST VALUED POSSESSION

Read Matthew 13:45-46

Text: Verse 46

In his childish mind, a seven-year-old boy in Denver, Colorado, decided that he was being unfairly treated at home. He approached his mother, told her of his feelings and of his decision to leave home. With parental love and wisdom his mother observed the boy as he went to his room, where he packed his little bag and walked from the house. She watched the boy as he walked down the street until he came to the home of one of her friends, where he paused hesitantly, then turned into the gateway. The friend answered his knock and listened to the boy's tale of woe. Understandingly, she said, "You must be tired and hungry. I have just baked some cookies. Would you like some, and a glass of milk?" While he was eating, the woman called the mother and told her what had happened. The mother replied, "I was watching. Would you mind letting the boy stay and see what happens?"

By dusk, of course, there was no place like home. The mother greeting the boy upon his return, fed him, and lovingly put him to bed. Then curiously she opened the boy's bag to see what he had taken with him, keeping in mind that the boy, with the finality of youth, intended to leave home permanently and therefore had packed his most valued possessions. The mother found a baseball cap, a space gun, his collection of miniature cars—and the boy's envelopes for his Sunday School offering.

For consideration: If you had to choose your three most valuable possessions, what would they be? What does your choice tell you about your stewardship of possessions?

—Curtis R. Schumacher

THE EYES OF A DYING MAN

Read Matthew 25:34-40

Text: Verse 40

The big jet lifted off the runway and soon the city of Dallas was spread out below us in panoramic view. My travel partner was a soldier who happened to sit beside me when we boarded the plane. Soon after our conversation began, he expressed the joy that accompanies a trip home. Then, he began to talk of Vietnam, his destination after the furlough was over.

"What has the army trained you to do?" I asked.

"I'm a medic," he replied.

As our conversation continued, he talked of the job of a medic in combat.

"After the battle," he said, "we go in and treat the wounded men. We try first to help the ones who can recover. If a man is fatally wounded, we leave him and move on to a person whom we can help."

"It must be hard to leave a dying man," I commented.

"In medic training they tell us never to look into the eyes of a dying man," he explained. "They say that if we do we will never be able to leave him."

Just then the stewardess brought our meal and our conversation ended. But his words kept ringing in my ears . . . never look into the eyes of a dying man . . . or you will never be able to leave him. Perhaps this is our problem. We have never looked into the eyes of the teeming multitude of humanity who is dying without Christ. The little children of Africa, the young couple in South America, an old man in Indonesia—if we ever saw their eyes—the helplessness, the loneliness that comes from not finding meaning in life—we would never be able to pass them by. We would give more of our resources that others might tell of Christ, whom to know is life eternal.

For consideration: Do we really see the needs of people as Jesus saw them? If we did, what chances would such insight make in our own lives?

—John A. Ishee

A CHURCH FOR SANTA CLARA

Read Romans 12:1-2

Text: Verse 1

In Santa Clara Pueblo in New Mexico stands a small adobe church building. The story behind the church building is one that challenges each Christian to greater service.

Several years ago Christian missionaries preached to the Indians of Santa Clara. Many of them believed in Christ, but most of them were hesitant to make public declarations of faith. To break with their traditional religion meant that they would be cut off from their tribes.

One young Indian lad felt that his village should have a house of worship. One day he called his friends to a meeting. Standing in front of his own house, he drew a line in the ground. Then he challenged his fellow Christians to take a stand. "All who will help me build a church to honor Jesus Christ, step over the line," he said.

There was a long pause and it seemed that no one would respond. Then, an old Indian squaw stepped across the line. That was the only response. And to make matters worse, the Indian squaw had only one arm.

Determined to build the church, the young lad and the old squaw went into the mountains of New Mexico and cut trees to form the structure for the adobe church. After many months, the church was completed.

As you stand in that little church and look up to the ceiling, you can see the hatchet marks where the elderly Indian squaw had trimmed the limbs from the tree with one hand. The crude handicraft reminds you of the dedication of this woman to the Christ who saved her. Her example led many Indians to make public their Christian faith.

For consideration: Can we really give ourselves to the Lord without giving also of our possessions?

—John A. Ishee

THREE BROTHERS MAKE A DECISION

Read Matthew 7:19-21

Text: Verse 21

Three brothers owned a profitable business in a Tennessee city. They were making a comfortable living and were considered successful businessmen, though none of them was really wealthy. A concern which had a selling proposition, but neither the capital nor the equipment to finance it, offered to sell the brothers a controlling interest in the new enterprise if they would take it over. They considered the matter and agreed that they could easily make a million dollars on the new venture and could make it fairly and honestly. The next day, the man who had made the proposition was amazed when they turned it down.

When pressed for the reason, the men admitted that it would pay. "But," said one of the brothers, "we are men of families and leaders in our church. With our present volume of business we can provide for our families and do our part toward religious, educational, and charitable enterprises. If we take over such an increased volume of business, it means longer hours of work, which would leave no time for our children and no time for our church. We would be untrue to our stewardship if we made a fortune at the sacrifice of our service to our church and of our family life."

For consideration: Can a man worship his work instead of his God? How is such worship expressed?

THE COME-BACK

Read Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Text: Verse 1

We have all seen the toy which is called the "Come-back." If you roll it away from you, it comes rolling back again. Children enjoy this toy, because they can sit down and play with it for a long time without having to run after it.

The Australian bushman have a weapon called the boomerang

which is also a "Come-back." When it is properly thrown, it returns to the one who threw it. It is a sickle-shaped weapon, made of wood, ivory or steel, varying in length from six inches to three or four feet. It can be thrown thirty yards or more—then it makes a great circle to return to the thrower.

Our thoughts, words, and actions act like the "Come-back" and the boomerang. If they are good and kind and helpful, they often return to bring us blessings as well as to carry blessings to the persons to whom they are directed. If they are cruel and spiteful, they return to plague us.

A little boy came to his father one day and said that there was a boy across the creek who said unkind things to him. His father understood very well what was the matter. He took the boy out to the edge of the hill and told him to say some kind words to the boy across the valley, and when he did the boy on the other side called back kind words to him. "Hello! little boy over there! I love you." Then came back in the same gentle voice, "Hello! little boy over there—I love you." He had been listening to a wonderful echo from the opposite hill. It was the echo of his own words which the boy heard.

The Bible tells of a "Come-back"—"Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days" (Eccl. 11:1). Of course, we must never give in expectation of getting something back. We must give because we love and want to give. But if we give generously and in love, in God's own time and in God's own way, a real blessing will come back—not necessarily a material blessing, but a real blessing just the same.

For consideration: Can you recall times when you received a blessing from putting God first in your life?

—Stewardship Stories

GOD'S POT OF RICE

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Text: Verse 18

In a village near Nellore, Southeast India, people were so poor that they ate only one meager meal a day. Yet they wanted to give a gift to Christ.

One day, when they had gathered in the little hut which served as their church, they found a row of common clay pots on the altar. The pastor, pointing out that each was marked with a cross, said, "These are the rice pots of the Lord Jesus. Any one of you who wishes may take one home. And you, O mothers, when you measure out the rice for your meal each day, take one handful from what you had meant to eat and put it in the Lord's pot, eating that much less. Then on Sunday bring it to church and offer God's rice to him."

So they took the crude vessels home, and day by day in the little huts one handful of the scanty meal was dropped in. And every Sunday they were emptied again in the church.

Some months later the pastor was telling the story of Ananias and Sapphira who had tried to cheat God by pretending they were giving him more than they were really ready to give.

When he finished, there before them all, a poor woman rose to speak. How she found the courage no one knows. "Oh, friends," she said, "I am like the people in that story. Day by day I have set aside rice for the Lord. But, oh, we are so poor! And the children cry with hunger! And sometimes," her voice trembled, "I have taken from that rice and given it to hungry mouths. And then I have brought the pot, pretending that it was all I had given."

Then, one after another, people in that little church stood up, bravely confessed the ways in which they had been pretending to God, and pledged themselves to a new start that day.

They never knew that we would hear that story—that we who have so much and give so little would be shamed by those Christians who have so little and give so much!

For consideration: Do we give as God has given us?

—Marion O. Boehr, M.D., Christian
Hospital, Nellore, South India

IT'S ONLY MONEY

Read Luke 12:13-21

Text: Verse 15

We were up to our ears in bills. Inflation and mountainous medical expenses had us down. I had just broken the news that Sonny's shoes weren't going to last another month. My husband nodded absently, picked up a \$60 dentist's bill, and sighed.

"Well," he announced, "just to top it off, the mechanic says the car needs an \$80 transmission job."

My heart sank, and I said facetiously, "Oh, well, it's only money." Bill looked at me as if I were crazy—then we both broke out laughing.

"You're right," he said, "it's only money and that's not very important compared to things like happiness, children, or friends. We've worried so much we've lost our perspective. But what about Sonny? Are we giving him the wrong idea about money?"

I knew what he meant. A few days earlier Sonny had been dazzled by a toy fire engine he saw in a store window. When Bill and I shook our heads over the terrible cost of toys, Sonny burst out, "It's awful not to have money!" Now we could see we had been passing on our worries to him—and we resolved to emphasize instead all the happy times we have that money can't buy. It worked, too. After a family romp recently Sonny said, "Betcha lots of families wish they had as much fun as us."

Not long ago I noticed Bill frowning as he made out our check for church.

"We give regularly," he told me, "but ever since the children came we seem to be too busy to do anything. I feel guilty knowing the minister has to get out the bulletins every week. It wouldn't hurt me to do that much. Sure, our pledge is important. But after all, it's only money."

I agreed. "I guess I should help with the Sunday School again, too."

That's how it has been since. "It's only money" has become a family adage. When some unexpected expense wallops our budget, we keep our minds on our blessings—and even manage to smile when we assure ourselves, "It's only money."

For consideration: Is money the most important thing in your life? What is the most important thing we can do with our money?

—Genelle France

Reprint from *Together*

FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME

Matthew 6:24-33

Text: Verse 33

"Hey, Jim what was that literature assignment for tomorrow?" asked Sammy as he entered the dormitory room.

"Read Longfellow's poems starting on page 259 and memorize the 'Psalm of Life,'" replied Jim, his roommate.

Sammy picked up his literature book, sat down on the bed, and began to read. "Hey," he called to Jim, "this part sounds familiar—this is what Granddad used to tell me when I was a kid:

'Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.'

"You know," Sammy continued, "when I was just a little boy I used to wonder what that meant. I'd go down to the river and make some tracks in the sand, and I guess I thought that would make me a great man someday. Wasn't that silly?"

"Yes," said Jim, "I guess we've all had experiences like that."

Sammy continued, "I used to get so confused at some of the things Granddad said—like the time he gave me five pennies to spend any way I wanted to. This other kid at the store was crying because he'd lost his penny. When I told Granddad how I gave him one of my pennies, he smiled real big, and I can just hear him . . . 'That's fine, Sammy, now you're learning how to make footprints.'

"But I see what he meant now. And Granddad sure did it. He

made footprints. He used to say, 'When we walk by faith, Sammy, the Lord just expects us to take one step at a time.' I remember that when I got my first job Granddad told me I had a chance to start walking by faith. I remember he used to say, 'Faith's not just something to talk about, Son, it's something you've got to practice. Faith is what makes you know that when you give the Lord one of those dollars he's gonna help you do what you need to with the other nine.' "

"You know, Jim," Sammy continued, "I can remember the first Sunday I put my tithe in my offering envelope and took it to church. I thought of all the things it was going to be used for. It would help pay for our new building and the song books. It would help the pastor and his family have the things they needed so he could spend all his time visiting, and studying, and preaching. And Granddad reminded me that some of my dollar was going out to the mission fields, too. He said that some of it would go to our seminaries to train other preachers like ours. And some of that dollar would make possible for somebody who's sick to have a Christian doctor and good care in a Christian hospital.

"I guess it must have been rough during the big depression, but I don't suppose he let down for a single minute. He used to laugh and say that the tithe of a dollar was a dime, and the tithe of nothing was a prayer. Granddad didn't stop at tithing though. He used to say, 'Sammy, tithing is just the beginning. And a Christian is like a feller in a race; he can't get anywhere just pacing back and forth on the starting line.'

"Then, after World War II, everyone was making a lot of money and Granddad used to say, 'Sammy, the Lord's got more right to an increase in rations than anybody I know of.' "

Jim broke in, "Your Granddad must have really been some kind of person! By the way, did he leave some money to this school in his will?"

"Yes," Sammy answered, "and some to be used in other ways, too. He didn't have a lot to leave, but he felt that all our Baptist institutions were trying to do Christ's work and he wanted to help all of them a little. You might say that was his last big step. And yet, in some ways it's as though he were still here. How does that Scripture go about 'he being dead yet speaketh'? He certainly made an impression on my life. It's almost as though I can see him now . . . leaving his footprints on the sands of time. . . ."

For Consideration: What kind of footprints are you leaving on the sands of time?

A MOTHER OF NINE

Read Acts 20:32-35

Text: Verse 35

"Chinautla is a Pocomam Indian village not far from Guatemala City. One of the early converts, dona Candelaria Sazo de Velásquez, after vainly seeking a cure for her disease among witch doctors, came to a group of Evangelical Christians as a last resource. She was led by these friends to accept Christ as her Saviour and soon found healing for both body and spirit. Since then she has been a devoted follower of Christ and a sacrificial giver. The mother of nine children, she helps her husband to support the family by making clay water jugs by hand. She can make one or two a day along with her other work, so at the end of the week she has about a dozen which she can sell for fifteen or twenty cents apiece. Out of her poverty she makes an offering to the Lord of fifty cents or more each week. She also gives one egg out of every ten, one chick out of every ten hatched, and the best fruits and flowers from her garden to help support her pastor. This Indian woman has discovered the secret of the blessing and the joy of sacrificial giving."

For Consideration: Can a person really believe that it is more blessed to give than to receive unless he experiences it?

from
—Guatemala News.

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE?

Read Luke 12:41-48

Text: Verse 48

Betty was startled when Edward suggested that perhaps they should *not* tithe for a while.

"What do you mean not tithe?" Betty gasped. "You know we have been faithful tithers ever since we were married. I was taught tithing as a child, and I just wouldn't feel right about even going to church if we did less!"

"I know that," Edward replied, "but I'm just not sure God even expects us to."

"Why, Edward, that just doesn't make good sense. How could you even question such a thing?" asked Betty.

Edward continued, "What I mean is that I don't really think God expects us to tithe when we aren't good stewards of *all* of our

money. I don't question the fact that we don't give anything until we have given the tithe, but I believe that God is just as concerned with how we spend the rest of our money." Edward went on, "I know we have always tithed religiously, but it seems to me that we just keep getting deeper and deeper in debt. Do you think that God is pleased with us for giving a tithe when we aren't equally careful about the rest of our obligations?" Edward asked.

"What do you mean by that?" Betty asked, obviously upset by what Edward had said.

"Well," Edward explained, "just look at these bills and maybe you will understand. I have figured up our obligations and we are already committed to paying bills that total 110% of our income. Take for example the new refrigerator you bought the other day. You knew that we were already committed for every penny I make and that there simply wasn't anything left for another monthly payment."

"But we needed a larger refrigerator," insisted Betty, "and it was on sale at such a good price that . . ."

Edward broke in, "I know all of that but we still don't have any place for the payment to come from except by cutting out our tithe. Do you remember Brother Elliotte's sermon a couple of weeks ago? The one where he spoke about a Christian's responsibility to manage his possessions wisely? I remember that he said, 'God expects us to be faithful with the tithe, but he also expects us to be equally faithful with how we use the rest of our income.' I guess I'm just trying to say that I think it is past time for us to sit down together as a family and decide how we are going to put our money to work. You know that I want to be a tither as badly as you do, but we are going to have to agree on how to spend the rest of the money and guard it carefully. I remember that Brother Elliotte said, 'To the family that lives the spirit of Christ through stewardship, money becomes more than money. Houses and cars, food, and furniture—all material belongings take on new meaning when they are honestly acknowledged as having come from the Lord.' He also said something about our being a witness to what we believe is important by the way we spend, save, give, and plan for the future."

"You're right," Betty said as she sat down beside Edward at the table. "I guess I have been wrong in feeling that as long as we tithed it didn't make any difference how we used the rest of our money. You really don't have much influence in a community if you can't pay your bills. I'm ready to try to see everything we have as a responsibility from God and try to use our material possessions more wisely. When do we begin?" she asked.

"Now!" replied Edward as he smiled at Betty and picked up the stack of bills.

For consideration: The Bible presents Christ as Lord and challenges every Christian to respond to his Lordship in the use of all possessions. Name the ways in which your family has done this.

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO TITHE?

Read Malachi 3:8-10

Text: Verse 10

Sam was worried. He wanted to tithe—he believed in it—but Sam had just made a list of his bills and compared it to his total income.

"I just can't afford to tithe," Sam muttered to himself. He looked again at his bills, then at the \$500 total monthly salary he made.

He added the figure again. First came the list of monthly time payments, plus the amount withheld from his check for taxes and insurance. His installments for the house, car, furniture, and the finance company totaled \$300 a month.

Then he averaged the monthly expenditures for groceries, utilities, and gasoline. It totaled \$150.

Sam figured he had only \$50 a month left for entertainment, spending money, and miscellaneous expenses. It was exactly one-tenth of his salary.

"We just can't tithe," Sam said to himself. "If we did, there just would not be any spending money left."

Sam got up from the kitchen table and went into his bedroom where his wife, Alice, was reading the Bible as she did every night before retiring.

"Sam," she said, "I think you ought to read the verse suggested in our daily devotional guide for today. The Scripture is Malachi 3:8."

Sam picked up the Bible, and his hand shook when he read the verse, "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed me. But ye say, wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."

"That settles it," Sam told his wife. "We will NOT rob God of the tithe."

"God has been good to us. He has given us life, health, happiness, a wonderful family, a job, and everything we have. It won't be easy, but we will give back to God the tenth that is his," Sam declared.

Sam pledged to tithe . . . and that's faith. But it is faith in an all powerful and loving God who said, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

For consideration: HOW'S YOUR FAITH?

THE THOUSAND-DOLLAR PRIZE

Read Psalm 24

Text: Verse 1

Barbara was reading a magazine when suddenly she jumped up and said, "Oh, Mother, I am going to try to win a thousand dollars, so I must begin to think what I will do with it."

Barbara had found in the magazine an offer of a prize of \$1,000 for the one who would find the largest number of names of things in a picture, all beginning with the letter "p." Barbara was sure she could win, for she was able to write down twenty-five words without trying at all.

One condition of winning the prize was that the successful candidate had to submit an account of what she or he would do with the money after it was received.

Barbara's mother was interested to know what her daughter would really do with that \$1,000 prize if she should win it.

This is what Barbara planned to do:

In her Sunday School, stewardship had been taught for a number of weeks. Barbara had come to understand that God owned all things and that she was only a steward holding in trust and managing for the real owner. In writing down what she would do with her \$1,000, Barbara said that, first of all, she would set aside \$100 as an offering in acknowledgement of God's ownership. She had already begun the practice of putting ten cents out of every dollar she received into her bank as her tithe. What do you suppose was the second thing Barbara planned? Now it happened that she had been going to the dentist to have her teeth straightened and it was costing the family a great deal of money. In fact, some of the family members were going without things that they really wanted, and needed, in order that Barbara's teeth might be straightened.

So the second thing Barbara planned to do with the \$1,000 was to pay the rest of the dentist's bill. Barbara understood that God wants us to think of others in the use of all the things which he entrusts to us.

I wish I had time to tell you just how Barbara divided the rest of her money. She planned to put some in the bank, for she realized that it was Christian and wise to save, just as Joseph saved up during the fat years in Egypt, making ready for the seven lean years which were to follow.

Part of the money Barbara thought she would spend for some things she really wanted very much. Some she would use to pay for piano lessons for herself and "Little Sister" and to buy a new tennis racket for her brother Edwin. Then she said she wanted to take all the rest of the money and give it to her mother and

her dad. Laughing with joy, she said to her mother, "You wouldn't want a tennis racket like Edwin or piano lessons like Kitty and me, but here's money for you to get anything you *do* want, because I love you." You see, Barbara believed that all that remained after she had set aside the \$100 still belonged to God and should be used in ways that would please him.

Barbara worked hard on her prize puzzle for a month and then she sent in her answer. The prize-winner is to be announced in two months. Barbara often looks at the calendar and counts how many days are left and wishes that she may win the prize. If she does, do you think she will know how best to use the money? Whether she wins the thousand dollars or not, I feel that she has attained a little bit of the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus—the calling to be a faithful steward, for I think it would be hard to find a better steward anywhere in all the U.S.A.

For consideration: How do we show through the use of our money whether or not we are good stewards?

—Stewardship Stories

CHANNELS OF GOD'S GRACE

Mark 12:41-44

Text: Verse 44

One Sunday morning a pastor preached a sermon on missions and gave the church an opportunity to make an offering. Among those who responded was a very poor widow who pledged one dollar.

That afternoon the deacons met to count the money and sort the pledges. Upon finding the widow's pledge, one deacon said: "I know that woman. She washes for my wife. She is not able to pay this money." The deacon took a dollar from his pocket, put it in an envelope, and marked her pledge paid.

After two weeks the woman came to the church to pay the pledge. The pastor informed her that her pledge was already paid. The widow insisted that it was not paid, because she had not had the money. She stated that she had saved ten cents out of each washing and that now she had the money to pay the pledge. Finally, the pastor told her about the deacon and how he had paid her pledge for her.

Tears came into her eyes as she said: "The work of the Lord goes forward, the gospel is preached, souls are saved, but I have no part in it!"

That woman had a right to have a part. Every man, woman, and child *should* have a part every week in the Lord's work. That is what stewardship is all about.

For consideration: What part will you have?

Discuss together what this day means to your family, your church, and the cause of Christian missions as family members make a covenant with God about their giving. Review your family's giving opportunities and responsibilities, then discuss and sign your dedication card. (Parents will help small children understand the meaning of the dedication card. It is important for them to know that they are having a part in giving.)

Pray for God's leadership for a greater witness through giving.



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