

Growing *Stewards*¹ of God's Belongings (part 2)

Intro: The great tulip disaster

Stewardship revised

- Everything is God's (everything's on loan)
- We are lousy stewards (we are idolaters)
- The owner paid a visit
 - Staggering us with riches
 - Warning us of poverty
- The gospel turns disaster into wonder

True riches exposed

- The 'poor' young ruler (Matthew 19:16-30)
- The Super-abundant (Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 1:3-12)

What's the deal about giving?

- Old testament (firstfruits, tithes, offerings)
 - Faithfulness, stewardship and blessing
- New Testament
 - Something greater than tithing
 - Not have to but *want to*
(Acts 4:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:1-4)
 - Driven by the mercy and faithfulness of God
(2 Corinthians 8:9)

¹someone an owner entrusts with the management of his/her assets

A whole giving world of difference

- Sacrificial and joyful (2 Corinthians 9:6)
- Longing for gospel flourishing
- Longing for immediate and eternal care

The state of our giving?

don't → irregular → regular → proportion → sacrificial

Growing as faithful stewards of God's money

- Living off less than 90%
 - 5%+ church
 - 5%+ mission & mercy
- Threats to real wealth
 - up scaling (where more is less)
 - down scaling (how is less more?)

The God who keeps giving

- Test me and see (Malachi 3:10)
- The safest and most abundant investment strategy
- No regrets and many happy returns

Further questions

1. What kind of a giver am I really?
2. Why am I at times hesitant or resistant to the Bible's teaching on giving?
3. How does the gospel speak into this fear and worry in my life?
4. What would it mean for my lifestyle to implement the 'less than 90%' challenge? Given my income, would that really be generous?

For further reading:

Managing God's Money, Randy Alcorn
Neither Poverty nor Riches, Craig Blomberg
Beyond Greed, Brian Rosner
Don't Waste Your Life, John Piper