October 23, 2019

Scripture


Jesus said to his disciples:
"Be sure of this:
if the master of the house had known the hour
when the thief was coming,
he would not have let his house be broken into.
You also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Then Peter said,
"Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?"

And the Lord replied,
"Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward
whom the master will put in charge of his servants
to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?
Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so.
Truly, I say to you, he will put him
in charge of all his property.
But if that servant says to himself,
'My master is delayed in coming,'
and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants,
to eat and drink and get drunk,
then that servant's master will come
on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour
and will punish the servant severely
and assign him a place with the unfaithful.
That servant who knew his master's will
but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will
shall be beaten severely;
and the servant who was ignorant of his master’s will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.”

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**Our Scripture Reflection**

There are two huge misconceptions about the meaning of Christian stewardship:

- It is a program
- It is about raising money

Stewardship is a way of life rooted in the belief that God loves us and trusts us and has put us in this life with a purpose. That purpose is to please Him and to bring glory to Him. He has provided us with all that we need to accomplish this purpose. We have only a short period of time, we know not how much, and we are expected to produce. When we leave this life, each of us will be called to give an accounting as to how we used the gifts He has given us.

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**Food for your Journey**

Did you know we are more worried, more nervous and uneasy, more depressed and anxious than previous eras?

So, what’s going on?

There’s many factors but, one reason, brought up on multiple occasions by psychologists, is the luxury (as ungrateful as it sounds) of too much choice. With so many options available, there is no excuse for making the less-than-perfect choice.

The trendy grocery store chain, Trader Joe’s, discovered (through market research) that people feel conflicted about what to purchase when, for example, there are over 20 different brands of peanut butter from which to choose. Trader Joe’s reduced this number to three or four — fewer options actually limits customer anxiety.

Only in a nation of abundance would multiple choices of peanut butter help to fuel our already anxious tendencies.

Anxiety has become the poisonous side effect of good people wobbling on the edges of idolatry, where we trust worry, fear and stuff more than God.


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**A Prayer from the Heart**

Gracious Father, You have lavished upon me more gifts that I could ever enumerate, especially those simple gifts such as life, health, home, food, family, talent and faith. All You ask of me in return as Your steward is to use these gifts for Your glory. I thank You, Lord, for loving me and trusting me. May I be found worthy of Your trust. Amen