

February 12, 2017 Sermon Discussion Guide
Pastor Steve DeNeff
“Empowering the Next Generation to be Stewards Themselves”

Gathering

“Lord, may this scripture guide our discussion as well as our lives. Give us the grace to empower those behind us.”

2 Corinthians 8:7

⁷Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

Prayer

- For those throughout the world who don’t know where their next meal will come from, send Your people as Your hands and feet. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For reconciliation in a divided world. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For all of us at CWC to embrace the shift from consumer to steward. *Lord, hear our prayer.*
- For the needs that we have shared together on a personal level,... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Summary of the Sermon

- As a group, recall the key points of Pastor Steve’s sermon.
- How did God stir you during the service? How were you challenged or changed?

Scripture

Take the time to read aloud the scripture that was preached. Luke 16:1-8

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. ²So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

³“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— ⁴I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

⁵“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

⁶“‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

⁷“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

⁸“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light.

Major Sermon Discussion Points

The shrewd manager uses what he has on the day he has it because the day is coming when he won't have it anymore.

- If we use what we have on the day we have it, we can safeguard ourselves against the day that we don't.

When passing what we steward to the next generation, we can end up in one of two ditches

- Abandonment – we abandon what we have and don't give it to someone coming behind us
- Control – we infuse what we are passing with so many stipulations we leave no room for the next generation to exercise creativity, risk, or adjustment

When passing on what we steward, we balance permission with accountability:

A – Approval – We pass on what we steward to those whom God is showing favor

B – Balance – We pass on resources to those who have a big enough mission for those resources

C – Continuity/Consistency – We don't just want to pass on what we have, we want to give of ourselves and participate as well.

Series Summary: Take time to think through and talk about each area of the stewardship process.

- Take
- Bless
- Multiply
- Give
- Leave

Next Steps/Moving Forward

- Name a generous person you know. Describe them in 2 words. Would you like to be more like this person?
- Who do you currently empower? How are you intentionally empowering them?
- As you look back throughout the Consumer to Steward SoulShift, which part of the stewardship process is God encouraging you to grow the most? How, with His grace, do you plan to move forward?

Closing Prayer

Pray as you feel led as a group following your discussion or pray (sing) the following prayer individually or together:

(The Doxology)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.