



Saint John United Methodist Church  
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Message for November 26, 2023  
"Kingdom Wealth and Stewardship: The  
Blessings of Responsible Stewardship"  
Speaker: Rev. Dr. Josmar Alvarez  
Scripture: Matthew 25:21

#### **Sermon 4: The Blessings of Responsible Stewardship: A Mindset Shift: Time, Treasures, Talents**

Dear beloved congregation, today we gather to reflect on the blessings of responsible stewardship and the profound impact it has on our lives, our community, and our eternal journey with the Lord. The scripture from **Matthew 25:21** reminds us of the profound joy that comes from faithful stewardship: "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

The two servants who invested their talents were praised, and the one who hid his talent had it taken away and given to one of the others. The parable, to some, does not seem fair, which is not uncommon for Jesus' teaching. Everything is on loan to us, not to hoard, hide, or enjoy for ourselves. All we have is meant to be used for God's service and people.

In Jesus' time a talent was a large unit of money, but in our vernacular, talent is a unique ability. In our modern-day understanding, this parable could have a double meaning. Stewardship involves managing more than money. It is managing all God has given to us – our time, unique abilities (talents), and treasure.

It's essential to understand that everything we have is on loan to us from the Lord. We are not called to hoard or hide our blessings but rather to use them for the betterment of God's kingdom and the well-being of others. This mindset shift is crucial as we consider stewardship in its broader context, encompassing not just our financial resources but also our time and talents.

**The key principles of faithful stewardship, multiplication, and increase, and the promise of eternal rewards underscore the profound impact of embracing a holistic approach to stewardship in our lives.**

**Our time**, a precious gift from God, should be dedicated to acts of service, prayer, and fellowship. By loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, we prioritize dedicating our time to Him.

**Each of us has been blessed with unique talents and abilities** to be used for the betterment of God's kingdom. The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) encourages us not only to possess talents but also to invest and multiply them for the service of others and the glory of God.

**When it comes to treasures**, it's essential to align ourselves with the global vision and mission of the church. By honoring our commitments and contributing to the church's mission work, we become integral components of discipleship, living out a life of radical generosity that impacts lives for eternity.

**2 Corinthians 9:10-11** <sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

**Philippians 4:** <sup>17</sup> **Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. 15-19**

**Practically**, we should seek kingdom-minded investments, continually grow in stewardship, and live with an eternal perspective, shifting our focus from temporary gains to eternal rewards.

Today, as we reflect on the deep well of scripture before us, let us also draw upon the wisdom of the church fathers. "**Our role as stewards is to faithfully manage the resources entrusted to us by God, using them wisely for His purposes.**" These timeless words remind us that stewardship is a calling that transcends generations and speaks to the heart of our mission as faithful servants of God.

**Let us now join in prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we humbly come before You, recognizing the blessings You have bestowed upon us. Grant us the wisdom and strength to embrace a mindset of responsible stewardship, recognizing that all we have is from You and for You. May our time, talents, and treasures be used to further Your kingdom, and may our hearts overflow with radical generosity. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

**Benediction:**

And now, as we depart, may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. Go forth in the joy of faithful stewardship, and may your lives be a testament to God's abundant love and grace. Amen.