

Stewardship of Our Possessions

The Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21)

- Context: A demand for a share of the inheritance
- Jesus took the opportunity to warn of covetousness.
- He also gave a reason to avoid covetousness: “for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”
- God blessed the “rich fool” but he laid up treasure for himself, and was not, therefore, rich toward God.

Trust God not Riches (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

- ~ Riches are uncertain and must not be trusted.
- ~ We must trust the Giver of riches Who gives us “richly” all things to enjoy.
- ~ We must be “rich” in good works, ready to give and willing to share.
- ~ By doing this, we will store up for ourselves a good foundation for the time to come.
- ~ Paul echoed Jesus’ words, “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.”

Hospitality....The Stewardship of Our Homes

Paul informs us that we are to be “given to hospitality” (Rom.12:13).

Peter commands us, “be hospitable to one another” (1 Peter 4:9).

The Greek word for hospitality is made up of two words:

1. *philos* = kindly disposed, love
2. *xenos* = stranger or foreigner

Hospitality is kindness to strangers or love of strangers.

As a concept, “hospitality” is found in the Old Testament:

When a stranger resides with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself.... (Leviticus 19:33-34).

LESSONS FOR OUR LIVES:

1. He who gives to those in need is rich toward God.
2. We are permitted to enjoy the things God has given us.
3. Be hospitable to one another, but also love strangers.