

Stewardship

Gary Presbyterian Church

Scripture

Matt. 6:24 “No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

Matt. 6:25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28 And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 32 For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Devotion

The Christian band Caedmon’s Call has a song *You Created* in which they sing about God, “You’ve created nothing that gives more pleasure than you,

and you won’t give me something that gives me more pleasures than you.”

It is a thought worth considering.

Those things which we love more than God are properly

understood as our idols. Saint Augustine

gave us the fancy theological name for this concupiscence. Concupiscence is the inordinate love we have for anyone or anything which prevents us from devoting ourselves firstly to God. This is the thing which Jesus is concerned about in the passage from Matthew. “You cannot serve two masters — both God and wealth.”

It is in our nature that we have a primary commitment which serves as the principal guide for life. Jesus warns us about the illusion of thinking that we can have more than one commitment in first place. Every disciple ultimately *must choose*. Who or what is the first focus and goal of our life? Martin Luther in his Larger Catechism says it this way, “That now, I say, upon which you set your heart and put your trust is properly your god.” As we ponder our stewardship of God’s abundance we do well to wonder where the desires of our heart are set, because God has created nothing which will satisfy our desires more than God.

Prayer

Lord, help us to keep first things first — to put you at the center of our life’s ambitions. Help us to remember that you know what we need, and that you will provide so that we can remain focussed on your kingdom and your righteousness. Amen.

