

VISION PATH
Stewardship of Resources
Week 5 January 30, 2022
Pastor Mike Popovich

A steward cares for the master's property.

Two principles of stewardship:

1. It all belongs to God
The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1 NIV
2. We have been purchased by Jesus

Do you live with God occupying first place in your life?

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me." Exodus 13:1-2 NAS

THE FIRSTBORN MUST BE SANCTIFIED OR REDEEMED

You shall devote to the Lord the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the Lord. Exodus 13:12 NAS

Jesus is the tithe to God on behalf of all humanity
The first born who belongs to God

For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
John 3:16 NAS

When the first is given to God, the rest is redeemed.

THE FIRST FRUIT MUST BE OFFERED

Bring the best of the firstfruits of your soil to the house of the LORD your God. Exodus 23:19a NIV

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing.
Proverbs 3:9-10a NIV

The principle of firstfruits says if you offer the first of your increase He will bless you in return.

CAIN AND ABEL

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. 4 And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, 5 but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. Genesis 4:3-5a NIV
God does not want to be worshiped with seconds.

THE TITHE MUST BE BROUGHT FIRST

As soon as the order went out, the Israelites generously gave the firstfruits of their grain, new wine, olive oil and honey and all that the fields produced. They brought a great amount, a tithe of everything.
2 Chronicles 31:5 NIV

You cannot give what is not yours. You can only bring it.

Do you rely on God to bless the fruit of your work by bringing what is His to begin with?

In days to come, when your son asks you, "What does this mean?" say to him, "With a mighty hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 15 When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed the firstborn of both people and animals in Egypt. This is why I sacrifice to the LORD the first male offspring of every womb and redeem each of my firstborn sons. Exodus 13:14-15 NIV

God delivered us and God continues to deliver us. I will gladly give to God because God has always taken care of us.

As a church family we employ the same principle of giving of our first fruits.