

## **Stewardship: The Seven “T’s”**

### ***A Bible Study for Setting God-Pleasing Priorities***

God has blessed His people in many ways. This study outlines seven of them.

#### **1. Time**

That time is a gift from God is often forgotten. People can lose money and gain more, but once time is past, they cannot get it back. We are to set priorities for the good use of God’s gift of time.

*“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:33-34*

During our life, the greatest priority we have is to be certain of being saved from the judgment of God. God has provided His only Son as the only way to be saved. Through faith in Him, we have eternal life. Without Him, we have eternal death. Jesus said,

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” John 15:5-8*

1. How do we stay connected by faith to Jesus Christ as our Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Jesus showed His priorities by His words and actions.

Read Luke 10:25-37

In the lesson of the Good Samaritan, Jesus described how we are to use our time to help and befriend others in need. At the same time spiritually, Jesus Himself was the Good Samaritan who helped us as we lay along the road of life, dying in our sins.

Read Mark 10:13-16

Jesus took time to speak to people and to help them. The contemporaries at His time thought that children were not important. Yet, as busy as Jesus was, He took the time to be with them and to bless them.

2. Why did Jesus take the time to be with so many people whether common or great? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Like Jesus, we want to use our time to honor God and help people.

*(Jesus said) “As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” John 9:4*

The King will reply, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9

3. How does our faith in Christ aid us in our time priorities in our families, workplaces, and church?

---

The story of a boy and his neighbor

## **2. Truth**

People who have been Christians their entire lives may not treasure God's truth, since they've always known it. But, without that saving truth, they would be lost forever.

*"To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'" John 8:31-32*

*"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17*

It is through God's truth that we become His people and remain as His people.

4. What are we to do to keep the saving truth among us? \_\_\_\_\_

---

*"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" Luke 11:28*

*"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1*

## **3. Talk**

If a cure had been found for a deadly disease like cancer and we had been chosen to announce the news to the media, we would consider it a great privilege to tell the world! We have even better news of the free gift of eternal life through Christ! God could have chosen His angels to perform this task, but instead He chose believers. Even though we are sinners who deserve eternal death, we have been saved by God's grace. We know the love of God personally and we want all to have His love in Christ.

*(Jesus said,) "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

*"You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."  
1 Peter 2:9*

*"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.'" 1 Corinthians 1:30-31*

5. What hinders us from speaking God's saving truth and how can these problems be overcome?

---

---

6. What encourages us to speak God's saving truth?

---

#### **4. Talent**

Each of us has been given certain abilities and vocations. How are we using these gifts to honor God and proclaim His saving truth in word and action?

*"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalms 139:14*

Read Exodus 4:1-17 God called Moses to return to Egypt and speak for Him so that the Children of Israel would be set free from their slavery. Moses then listed several reasons why he shouldn't go. But God had an answer to every objection.

Read Esther 4:6-16 God gave Esther a favored position as the wife of the King of Persia. Along with such blessing came a responsibility to do good toward others.

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11*

*"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10*

7. What are the talents that God has given you? How are you serving the Lord and your family through the use of your talents or in your vocation?

---

## **5. Treasure**

Jesus told us as His followers to bring His truth to all nations. But we don't have the means or abilities to take His Word everywhere. God established the ministry of preaching and teaching locally and in foreign mission fields so that His Word will be proclaimed to the nations.

The Apostle Paul received offerings from the Philippians so he could continue his mission work.

*(Paul wrote) "In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:4-6*

*"Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor." Galatians 6:6*

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-9 A special offering was being received to help the Christians in need in Jerusalem. Paul gave instructions about giving which we can apply to the support of our congregation, synod, or other missions.

8. How do we support our congregation and Lutheran school in carrying out the Gospel ministry Christ has given us?

---

## **6. Temple**

God's Word describes our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit. Not only are we to care of our bodies with nourishment and rest, but refresh them through personal devotion and prayer. Even Jesus prepared for His day with a quiet time with His heavenly Father.

*"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." Mark 1:35*

*"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." 1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

*"Physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come." 1 Timothy 4:8*

9. Why is some form of physical exercise good for all of us? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Why is spiritual exercise of our faith better for us? \_\_\_\_\_

The Barna Group took a survey asking 1,000 households: What is your highest priority?

In 2006	In 2010 (same survey)
51% - family	45% - family
16% - faith	12% - faith
13% - health & leisure	20% - health & leisure
9% - wealth or profession	17% - wealth or profession

## **7. Trust**

Stewardship of trust is depending on God's care for us. Throughout history God has provided many blessings for His people. We trust that as we use His many gifts wisely to help others, God will continue to provide for us. We give of ourselves to God because we trust He has already provided all that we need and that He will continue to bless us as we seek to do His will!

*"He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." 2 Corinthians 5:15*

*"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." 1 Peter 5:6-7*

*"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times; having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

We prayerfully ask God: How will our personal stewardship of Time, Truth (the Word), Talk, Talent, Treasure, Temple (our body), and Trust assist us in not only setting but carrying out God-pleasing priorities for His honor and for the good of His people?

As Thanksgiving approaches, may this study remind us to be thankful for all God's gifts and guide us as to how we may best use His blessings!

Answers to the questions will be available next Sunday.