

Notes from “The Money Myths” a seminar about Stewardship by Canon Harold Percy, Rector, Trinity Anglican Church, Streetsville, ON

- Our goal in stewardship teaching should be to develop and nurture generous people – radically generous and joyful people. The church is in the business of growing people towards spiritual maturity i.e. learning to live to the glory of God. The church has been distracted and needs to reclaim this goal.
- Generosity is a key attribute of discipleship. We need to learn how to become more generous.
- Generosity is pleasing to God; it’s a way of saying thank you to God; it’s a way of learning to trust God.
- Disciples need to learn a new way of thinking about their money. Mammon (the power of money) is the #1 idol in our culture. Money is about more than dollars and cents – for example it’s a way of keeping score. E.g. “how much do you think he’s worth?”
- Money Myths: significance, security, satisfaction. “Just a little more and then I will be happy”. (Our wants become our needs) It’s never enough. (We all feel this way)
- After “the Kingdom”, Jesus talked about money more than anything else.
- How we think about money is a major factor in determining our potential for spiritual growth. We really cannot grow beyond what we do with this issue. Be on guard against all kinds of greed.
- Why should I give?
 - ✓ Because I want to grow toward spiritual maturity
 - ✓ Because I want to break the power of money and be free
 - ✓ Because I want to be fulfilled
 - ✓ Because the cause is important
- Never exclude the less fortunate from the joy of discipleship
- How should I give?
 - ✓ Willingly
 - ✓ Cheerfully
 - ✓ Proportionally
 - ✓ Off the top
 - ✓ Expectantly
- Ministry costs money. Good ministry costs more
- How much should I give?
 - ✓ Till it feels good
 - ✓ A bit more than feels comfortable (Sacrificially – requires a faith factor - feels a little uncomfortable)
 - ✓ Step up to tithing
- Keys to Generosity
 - ✓ Gratitude and contentment
 - ✓ Downward mobility is a concept whose time has come
 - ✓ Work toward: Giving 10%, Saving 10%, Living on 80%. (Society tries to tell us to live on 125%)
 - ✓ Grow into this, step by step
- You were designed by God to give. It’s in your DNA.
- Whatever you wanted to do for you will happen when you give
- Generous people are happy people.