Study: Stewardship

Text: Matthew 5:13-16

"STEWARDING YOUR VOTE"

Sunday, October 23, 2016

In this series we are placing a special emphasis on service and responsibility—our responsibility in serving God in the sphere of influence He has placed each one of us in.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is **required** in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

A "steward" was like an estate manager. They are entrusted with the care of the property but do not have ownership of it. A "steward" was entrusted with something of great value.

1 Thessalonians 5:24 Faithful is **He** that calleth you, **Who** also will do it.

Whatever God calls you to do, remember that He is faithful to give you the grace to do it. Seek to be a faithful steward of God.

† Stewarding God's Word

Faithfully stewarding God's Word is seen in two ways.

<u>First</u> by **understanding** its worth. See the value of God's Word. (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105)

<u>Second</u>, **respond** to God's Word in worship by being diligent in it, directed by it, and devoted to it.

† Stewarding your Influence

God has placed each one of us in a **sphere of influence** which includes your friends and family members. It also includes your neighbors, co-workers, acquaintances, and total strangers that you come into contact with. These are people in your sphere of influence that God has intentionally allowed to be in a position to be influenced by you.

†	Stewarding your Vote

Let's consider three aspects of our votes and the kind of influence that we are called to enact from Scripture.					
Voting as a (Matthew 5:13-16)					
Area of influence: This is looking at the people around you.					
"Ye are the salt of the earth:" – We are called to be an enhancer and preservative.					
Q: How often do you, instead of having the joy of the Lord live as though there is no hope?					
As a light, we are called to bear the light of Christ in a world darkened by sin. In a world where the blind lead the blind we are called to be a light-bearer—a guiding light as we allow Christ to shine in our lives and therefore we glow in the world around us.					
Example: Daniel's influence on Nebuchadnezzar.					
<u>Matthew 5:16</u> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.					
II. Voting with					
Area of influence: This is looking to your God in heaven.					
Remember that God takes action and begins to work when we <i>pray according</i> to His will. He continues to work as we continue to pray.					
<u>2 Chronicles 7:14</u> If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.					
A. Pray for our					
We must be ever diligent to pray for all those in authority over us.					
Pray for their ultimate good.					

• Pray that they would be humble before God and seek His wisdom.

• Pray for their spiritual condition.

Paul's desire is for us to faithfully lift up our fellow man to God and we ourselves to live lives that would manifest the reconciled state that we are in. This is acceptable to Him.				
<u>Proverbs 14:34</u> Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin <i>is</i> a reproach [<i>disgrace</i>] to any people.				
<u>Proverbs 20:28</u> Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.				
B. Pray for (James 1:5)				
Humble action:				
Continuous action:				
<u>Proverbs 16:25</u> There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof <i>are</i> the ways of death.				
<u>Proverbs 16:9</u> A man's heart deviseth his way: <u>but the LORD directeth his steps.</u>				
III. Voting with				
Area of influence: This is looking to the future effects of the proposed policy.				
Cf. Proverbs 14:34				
<u>Proverbs 29:2</u> When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.				
Many look at voting for a candidate as a complete endorsement of the whole				

Many look at voting for a candidate as a complete endorsement of the whole person and thus making us culpable for all of their actions (past, present and future). If this is the case then we could never cast a vote or give our support to anyone.

As we look to vote with perspective let us consider that you have the opportunity to influence the direction of this nation by prayerfully casting a vote as led by the Lord.

Look for the right kind of policies:				
A.	Their view of	(Isaiah 1:26)		
Everything that is currently being fought in our culture war was put in place by our judicial system. The right kind of judges have greater long-term affects upon a nation.				
В.	Their view of	(Genesis 12:3)		
Both our importan	view toward Israel and how we treat t t issue.	he nation of Israel is an		
С.	Their view of	(Exodus 20:3)		
	rse we can see our freedom of conscie reeminent.	ence as God commands that He		
D.	Their view of	(Exodus 20:13)		
A public policy that this commandment greatly speaks to is the protection of innocence . It is something that God takes very seriously (2 Kings 21:16).				
Shedding judgment	innocent blood brings a curse upon the	e nation in the form of		
E.	Their view of	(Exodus 20:14)		

1. Pray for each candidate. Pray for their souls.

Sexuality within the bounds of Biblical marriage.

- 2. Pray for your own wisdom and clarity.
- 3. Prayerfully cast your vote being fully led by God through Biblical principles.

