

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES WEBINARS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 8; 12:30 – 1:30 PM (CST)

English—Jesus as an example for Stewardship

by Pastor Todd Frias

Zoom Link: <https://adventist.zoom.us/j/9582557354>

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Webinar Description:

Jesus' way of life is the best example of systematic benevolence in practice. How can the biblical principles of consistent giving, reveal God's character in the lives of His modern-day disciples? Do we need more appeals to support God's mission? Or should our understanding of the biblical regular and systematic Giving, enough to support the world church mission until Jesus comes?

This is a general outline of our content for the webinar on Wednesday afternoon, 08 June 2022.

After this session, you will be able to:

1. Develop a positive outlook on regular and systematic giving.
2. Develop creative, Christ-centred ways of promoting partnership in mission.
3. Guide and disciple church members to faithful stewardship.
4. Experience real joy of Stewardship in Jesus.

I. Introduction:

A. What comes to your mind when you hear the words, i.e., Steward, Disciple, Generosity and Systematic Giving?

II. Jesus is our Perfect Steward

A. Before Creation - He Gave (2 Timothy 1:9)

1. Grace through Jesus

Quote: *"The creation of the worlds, the mystery of the gospel, are for one purpose, to make manifest to all created intelligences, through nature and through Christ, the glories of the divine character. By the marvellous display of His love in giving "his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life," the glory of God is revealed to lost humanity and to the intelligences of other worlds."*

– Ellen G. White

B. At Creation - He Gave (Genesis 1:26-28; Hebrews 1:3)

1. All Creation (Genesis 1; Psalm 8)
2. Life (Genesis 2:7)
3. His Image (Genesis 1:26)
4. Work and Responsibility (Genesis 2:15)

Quote: *"You weren't an accident. You weren't mass produced. You aren't an assembly-line product. You were deliberately planned, specifically gifted, and lovingly positioned on the Earth by the Master Craftsman."* – Max Lucado

C. In His earthly life - He Gave (Luke 4:16-21)

1. Importance to communion with God (Luke 5:16; Mark 1:35)
2. He learned about living and practical work (Luke 2:40-52)
3. Ministered to People's Needs (Luke 5:15; John 3; 4; 5:1-15; 9:4)
4. Hands-on Stewardship (John 4:34; 8:29; Matthew 11:27-30)
5. Taught Heavenly principles of Living (Matthew 6:21,24; Luke 12; 6:8-11)

Quote: *"The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that he might offer up his life as a sacrifice for the sins of men."* - Billy Graham

D. As Saviour and Lord - He Gave (Luke 8:28-29)

1. He Chose a Life of Sacrifice (Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 4:13)
2. Redemption (John 3:16; Luke 19:10)
3. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)
4. The Holy Spirit (John 14:16-20)

Quote: *"When He tells us to love our enemies He gives, along with the command, the love itself."* — **Corrie Ten Boom**

E. As Mediator and King - He Gave (John 5:19-30)

1. Forgiveness (2 Cor 5:17)
2. Spiritual gifts (James 1:16-18; Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:1-16)
3. Wisdom to Gain Wealth (Deuteronomy 8:10-14;17-18)
4. Living Temples (1 Corinthians 6:19,20)
5. Ministry of Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:14-21)
6. Hope and Assurance (1 Peter 4:19; Hebrews 10:23)
7. Divine Privileges (John 17:10-12)

Quote: *“Christ glorified not Himself in being made High Priest. God gave Him His appointment to the priesthood. He was to be an example to all the human family. He qualified Himself to be, not only the representative of the race, but their Advocate, so that every soul if he will, may say, I have a Friend at court. He is a High Priest that can be touched with the feelings of our infirmities.” Ellen G. White (Manuscript 101, 1897).*

III. Jesus’ Life of a Steward Revealed through His disciples

A. Purpose for Living (Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:13)

1. Worship (Matthew 6:24; Psalm 24:1; 1 Chronicles 29:10-12; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

- Keep worship, prayer life and thanksgiving central to our church experience.

- Giving is an act of Worship (Proverbs 3:9)

Quote: *“Worship is giving God the best that He has given you. Be careful what you do with the best you have. Whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship.” – Oswald Chambers*

B. Image Bearer (Genesis 1:27; 2 Peter 1:4)

1. Created for Community (Ephesians 3:16-19)
2. Righteous Living (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

Quote: *“Has God’s face ever been on a coin? We are the coin that bears the living likeness of God. Giving of ourselves with whatever that may include, is the only legal currency of the kingdom of heaven.” - Gordon and Gladis DePree*

C. Christ Centred Life (Galatians 2:20)

1. Steward Leader (Exodus 35:20-29; 36:2-7; 1 Chronicles 29:3-9; Nehemiah 10:31-39; Romans 15:26-28; 2 Corinthians 8-9)

- Jesus appreciated the widow’s giving (Mark 12:41-44)

- Church Leaders’ engagement with stewardship shows improved financial response from the church members.

- Leaders hold the key to a generous giving experience in the church.

Quote: *“The journey of the steward leader requires us to take to heart our call to bear the fruit of the Spirit first, before we put our hands to the work of producing the fruit of our ministries” – R. Scott Rodin*

D. Mission Driven Life (Colossians 4:2-6)

1. Partnership with God (Colossians 3:17, 22-24)

Quote - *When we acknowledge God’s ownership, every spending decision becomes a spiritual decision.* – Larry Bucket

2. Systematic Giver (Deuteronomy 14:22-29; 26:1-11; Matthew 6:33; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:5)

- Regular and systematic giving is more than how we give/return our gifts to the owner; it is the heart’s intention to make giving a priority, an affirmation of God’s blessing.

- Regular giving is God’s key to produce a connection between us and Him based on Trust and Faithfulness. (Malachi 3:10)

Quote: *“I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of God. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it, I shall most promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time or eternity.”—David Livingstone*

E. Living God’s Giving (Deuteronomy 26:8-10)

1. Generous Life (2 Corinthians 8:1-2,9; 5:14-15)

Quote: *"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."* – Winston Churchill

- God's gift of joy is the fertile ground from which every man's generosity grows mature.

- Our giving is a recognition of who God is.

2. Humility Before God – Regular and systematic giving produces genuine humility on one's heart as he/she reflects on everything that God has given.

Quote: *"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."* – John Bunyan

IV. Conclusion:

Jesus' perfect life of a Steward is man's greatest model and example for our modern, end-time living. As He consistently gave Himself generously from the beginning of time, and through eternity, our lives as modern-day stewards are to be as faithful as the mercy and faithfulness of Jesus, which are new every morning (Lamentation 3:23).

And as our great Lord, God, Owner, and Giver of all things in this world, and to each one of us, we can always put our Trust in Him and in all circumstances. (2 Timothy 1:12)

He continuously gave everything He has for our good, even death on the cross. A life worth living, a life worthy to be imitated by all His modern-day disciples. Our systematic benevolence is an acknowledgement of Jesus' life impact on our own lives. His exceeding generosity is like spring, the source of living water that never stops making an impression in another soul's life waiting to be ushered to God's kingdom. Our planned giving consistently desires that more souls will be won to the kingdom. Our generosity and giving pattern, becomes missional in nature, as we understand that everything God allows us to manage are given, only to direct glory to Jesus who is the greatest and perfect Steward of all.

A consistent divine influence produces a joyful heart, blessed enough to partner with Jesus through systematic giving.