



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Being Christ's Stewards

SPEAKER Elder Lok Vi Ming

THEME Knowing & Experiencing God

DATE 24/25 Aug 2019

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Elder Lok began by quoting: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." (Psalm 24:1)

It reminds us that we are stewards of God's gifts and resources – we do not own anything, rather, we are entrusted with God's resources. As His stewards then, we invest these resources on the Lord's behalf, to feed the hungry and serve the least. As seen in Matthew 25:14-28, the privilege of stewardship may be taken away if we are unfaithful and irresponsible.

THE ABC PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

A) ATTENTIVENESS TO GOD

We live in a busy and noisy world. There is substantial materialism in the world and worldly values do not align with the kingdom values. We need to be mindful that we should be first and foremost attentive to God. We should prioritise reading, hearing, meditating and dissecting God's word so that we will have wisdom from the Lord.

As we are aware, our population is aging and there are many elderly who are lonely and disadvantaged. Some of them may require financial assistance as well. God's word tells us in Proverbs 14:31 that whoever oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honours God.

We see a similar message in Ezekiel 16:49 "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy."

Elder Lok shared about how lawyers are encouraged to think about pro-bono work in the course of their career so that they can bless others in need as part of their profession.

B) A BEAUTIFUL HEART

A beautiful heart marinated with God's love lets out a wonderful aroma. God appreciates such a posture and there is no need to brag about it. Nor do we need to have a cheering crowd to do good deeds if our hearts are truly inclined to bless others.

We see such an example in Matthew 26:6-8 where a woman came to Jesus with an alabaster jar filled with expensive perfume, which she poured on his feet. Jesus said that she had done "a beautiful thing". Elder Lok defined a beautiful heart as one which is gracious, selfless, generous, caring, not easily offended, loving, nurturing, and not calculative or mean.

Extracted from the book "Man in the Mirror", it states that no matter how influential and affluent we become in the prosperous material world, we will not find eternal profit from temporal kingdoms. The only profit that matters is the eternal one."

C) A HIGHER CAUSE

Generosity and gratitude are the high kingdom values.

Deuteronomy 24:19-22 clearly advocates for us to display generosity during harvest time. Farmers were instructed to not completely harvest their fields, so that some would be left behind for the hard-working poor to gather for themselves. This was a wonderful way of helping the poor, making a way for them to provide for their own needs with dignity.

CONCLUSION

In John 21:15-17, we see Jesus asking Simon son of John, if he loved Jesus. He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

Feed means to nurture, protect and watch over. Hence if we love the Lord, we will take care of His people, take care of the poor and those in need.

Elder Lok encouraged us to redeem the time, make the most of the opportunity to do good and bless others as an act of our love for the Lord.

QUESTIONS

1. Following the Parable of Talents in Matthew 25:14-28, what does it mean for you personally to be a Steward of God's gifts and resources?

2. What do the 3 principles of stewardship mean to you? (Attentiveness to God, Beautiful Heart, Serving a Higher Cause)

3. From the 3 principles of stewardship, what is one principle you would like to focus on and develop?