

STEWARDSHIP MEDITATIONS

(A Beginner's Guide for Preparation)

A stewardship meditation is a short (3-5 minute) prepared message (devotion) about being a good steward for our Lord.

A “steward” is one who manages another's property or possessions. The Christian is a steward, in that he acknowledges that God owns everything, including his body, finances, and time. Going even further than this, the Scripture calls the Christian a “bondslave;” who voluntarily gives up personal ownership of any and all things to God.

In a typical stewardship meditation, first a Scripture passage is read. Then the person giving the mediation shares how this applies in real life. He may share some personal experience or lessons that he has learned that the Scripture points out. Explaining what God means or what God wants from us as stewards could also be a part of the stewardship meditation.

Since stewardship effects our whole life as Christians, almost any or all of the New Testament could possibly be used for a stewardship mediation.

In preparing for a stewardship meditation, first select a passage, praying to the Lord for guidance. One or two verses of Scripture is typical for a stewardship mediation. Try to not use more than 5 verses, and they should all be consecutive (in a row).

Next pick out one or two of the following questions to answer concerning your Scripture passage:

- 1) What is God trying to say here?
- 2) In your own words, what do the verses say?
- 3) What does the passage mean to me personally?
- 4) What experiences or life examples have I seen that prove the Scripture to be true?
- 5) How does the passage pertain to the Church and our mission?
- 6) What does God want us to learn from these verses?
- 7) How can we put these Scriptures into action?
- 8) What are the rewards for obeying God as indicated by this passage of Scripture (some verses state the reward directly, others indirectly)
- 9) What are the possible consequences of disobeying God's directions in the specific Scripture read?

Then write your answers down to the questions you have decided to answer for your selected Scripture passage.

After you have written the answers out on paper, then you can start practicing giving the meditation out loud. Time yourself to make sure it is between 3-5 minutes long. Taping your practice with a recorder and listening to yourself (then making any changes you would like) is an effective way to improve your stewardship meditation. Practicing in front of a mirror or video taping your practice also may help you to prepare for sharing your stewardship meditation in the Assembly.

When you are satisfied with your prepared Stewardship Meditation, ask God to bless your sharing what you have learned with others.

Steve Compton
Circa 2000

*Note:

Here at Christ's Church in the Valley we encourage all the men to share from the Scriptures publically. The Stewardship Meditation provides a starting point for men to voluntarily begin speaking in the Assemblies, and to see if this is a part of their personal ministry. We rotate this assignment among those volunteering to share. Historically, this practice has its roots in the synagogues of Jesus' day, where each man was offered a turn reading the Torah scrolls in their Assemblies.

Our objective in rotating the speaking assignments is to bring up and train the congregational leadership from within the local assembly. Rather than call and/or hire Christians from other locales to build the congregation here, we believe the Biblical pattern is to build from one's own community. In the future, we endeavor to send out folks to plant and establish the Lord's Church in un-churched communities in like manner.