



'All One in Christ'

THE UNITED OF ZAMBIA

SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

SERMON OUTLINE AND WEEK LESSONS

22nd -28th JULY 2024

THEME: UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND WHAT TO DO

1 CHRONICLES 12:32

SUB THEME: IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

READINGS: GENESIS 4:1-14,

INTRODUCTION

Stewardship is protecting and expanding assets that belong to another. In Genesis 1:26-28, we learn that God gave man the authority to rule over everything on earth on His behalf. Even though mankind was entrusted with the maintenance and care of the animals, land and sea, God created them and is the actual owner.

The United Church of Zambia has recognized to this fact the responsibility God has entrusted to us, and this is the reason that this stewardship week, we will spare some time to talk about this task.

MONDAY 22ND JULY, 2024

TOPIC: EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

BIBLE READING: PSALM 24:1

INTRODUCTION

We are the stewards of God; God is not only the owner of everything but He also controls everything else. To those who have received Christ, He has put all His resources at our disposal and He expects us too to put all our resources at His disposal.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What is stewardship, and why is God's ownership foundational to it?
2. How is stewardship synonymous with the Christian life?
3. Is God really the owner of all, discuss?

CONCLUSION

If we believe God is the owner of all that has been entrusted to us, we see that what we do as His employees put his assets and his reputation on line. By doing that, we discover the question we should have been asking Him all along; "what do you want me to do with your money and your possessions"?

Amen

TUESDAY: 23RD JULY, 2024

TOPIC: PRUDENT STEWARDSHIP

BIBLE READING 1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2

INTRODUCTION

God has entrusted us with various opportunities, resources and privileges, and we must do what He tells us to do with His blessings to us.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Who is a steward according to your Church, what is his/her role?
2. Basing on what you see at your congregation, are members prudent stewards, if not what should be done?
3. How is Christianity related to stewardship?

CONCLUSION

A servant does what his master tells him or her to do, we must do what God tells us to do in the Bible and through His Holy Spirit. Each day God presents us with needs and opportunities that challenge us to do what we know is right.
Amen

WEDNESDAY: 24TH JULY, 2024

TOPIC: BIBLICAL MINDSET ABOUT MONEY

BIBLE READING: LUKE 16:10-11

INTRODUCTION

The scripture suggests that all of us are continually tested in our money management discipline, if you are faithful in large amounts, then more larger amounts will be given to you. But if you are dishonest in little things, even what you have will be taken away from you, because you have proved that you can't be honest even if entrusted with greater responsibilities.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Are we faithful in how we handle money? be it personal or institution such as Church or government.
2. Is money really important to God and how?
3. Why does Stewardship emphasize on money and possessions in the Church?
4. What will be our answer to the question of accountability?

CONCLUSION

Some people when it comes to giving, they say “I have nothing to give” but the same people spend money on talk time, bundles, photos, expensive clothes and cars, paying money and attending all kitchen parties and so forth. These people have nothing to give when they have done with their spending on their personal pleasures. Let our mindsets be focused on God and all things shall be added to us.

Amen !

THURSDAY: 25TH JULY 2024

TOPIC: CHRISTIANITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

BIBLE READING: GENESIS 2:15

INTRODUCTION

God has clearly placed human beings in a position of responsibility over the creation. He commissions us to rule over the creation in a way that sustains, protects, and enhances His works so that all creation may fulfill the purposes God entrusted for it.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is it important as Christians to take care of everything around us?
2. What would happen if human beings are failing to take care of the environment in which we live?
3. Some people argue that protecting the environment is not important in comparison to other God given tasks such as sharing the gospel. What advice would you give to such people?

CONCLUSION

There are numerous things we can do in our everyday lives that help protect God's creation, such as conserving energy and reducing waste. These in no way interfere with our witness to unbelievers. Our concern for the environment may open up opportunities to share with unbelievers that our service to creation overflows from our love for the creator.

Amen!

FRIDAY: 26 TH JULY 2024

TOPIC: STEWARDSHIP OF SELF

BIBLE READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-17

INTRODUCTION

Personal stewardship of our bodies is a task only individuals can do for themselves. We need to keep ourselves jealously and responsibly.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is it possible that some sufferings are caused by self, if yes how?

2. Can alcohol and drug abuse lead people to destroy their lives and in the end miss heaven, if yes explain?

3. What are some of the effects of sexual immorality to spirituality?

CONCLUSION

Our bodies are members of Christ, (the temple of God) therefore, we need to keep them holy to allow the Spirit of God to live in it. Having known these truths, beloved in the Lord; let us cleanse ourselves from the filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Amen!



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SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

28 TH JULY 2024

SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

THEME: UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND WHAT TO DO

1 CHRONICLES 12:32

SUB THEME: IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

READINGS: GENESIS 4:1-14, LUKE 16:1-13

INTRODUCTION

Our perspective on money and possessions and how we handle them, lies at the very heart of Christian life. The Bible demonstrates that our view of money and possessions are as important as they may be, reveals the intent and nature of our hearts. “Where your treasure is, there your heart shall be also”, Luke 12:34.

What we do with our possessions will have a bearing on eternal realities. When we see money and our possessions, sometimes we tend to think as if we own them, forgetting that we are just stewards, God alone is the absolute owner.

Instead of acting like God’s money and possessions, we the managers act foolishly and wastefully taking our cues not from the owner but from the world around us.

The Biblical meaning of the word stewardship can be defined as;

“Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and betterment of His creation”.

A steward is a person who manages another 's property or financial affairs.
(Oxford dictionary)

BIBLE EXPLANATION

The book of Genesis depicts the story of the two sons of Adam and Eve, the two had different occupations, that time around the Lord was no longer providing everything to them as it was given in the garden of Eden where their daily provisions were readily available by creation. The two boys now had daily tasks that were refreshing and delightful.

It was at this point that now they had to struggle and labour in order to provide food for themselves and their families.

Cain was a farmer while Abel was a shepherd, that indication demonstrated that God had given them different fields of operation, just like we are God's children with different professions, careers, jobs and businesses. God has entrusted them upon us for a purpose.

The gospel of Luke 16:1-13, unveils the Lord Jesus narrating the story of the shrewd manager, whom the owner intended to fire as manager for wasting his resources. During the brief period before his job termination; the shrewd manager becomes aware of his fate that was to befall him, he quickly and skillfully went to his master's debtors and reduced what they owed. By this act the shrewd manager reinforced and reignited his friendship with the debtors beyond employment, which in turn would result in the master recovering some of what he would have lost; hence he was commended for his shrewd action.

He praised him for his foresight in making friends who will be supportive of him now that his term of stewardship is over.

POINTS FOR REFLECTION

1. ENJOY WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED UPON YOU

Cain and Abel were given what to do, so that they could labour to produce and enjoy from their sweat. Whatever you do in life which makes God happy is meant for you to enjoy as well. Be proud of your good business or job. Do not complain, God knows why He has given you that job or that good business.

When you do not appreciate God, you will never be at peace and never do the best for your God. Remember that whatever business you are doing provided it is right, God gave it to you so that you may enjoy it to the glory of His name.

2. TAKE CARE OF WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED YOU WITH

A good steward is someone who knows how to care for what has been entrusted upon him or her. God did not give you that life, job or business only to enjoy, but also to care for it, what you don't manage well, you lose.

Abel and Cain cared for what they were given. They looked after their jobs well, a hunter and a gardener which are in essence fundamental to the care of nature through preservation. We need to take care of our mother earth.

Our nation Zambia had just experienced the drought that made our crops to fail in many parts of the country. This experience and reality compromised food security which may escalate the levels of hunger, part of the problem climate change experts tell us that the drought experience happened as a result of not taking care of the nature; a problem of climate change.

Caring involves monitoring closely and getting involved and knowing what is happening around you. Provide solutions to prevailing problems of nature and the human, but don't add to it, be part of the solution.

For us to succeed in life, be it in business, job or caring for mother nature among many others, we need to get involved and correct the damage we have caused for the survival of the upcoming generations and the eco -systems. Unlike today, the destruction of the environment takes place with impunity, with no care or any form of compensation. There is a lot of deforestation due to mining and charcoal burning, nature is getting spoiled, and people are just interested more in money than in conserving nature. Where are the believers in Christ who understand the treasures of God given to humanity and humanity's responsibility towards them?

3. EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

Money can easily take away God's place in your life if you take it as though everything belongs to you. It can become your master if you cannot remember God and thank Him for all that He has given you. Whatever God has given to us, He expects us to manage it well, enjoy and care for it but also to remember and be thankful to Him for His provision.

Remembering God in what we have is not easy, many people enjoy God's provision but do not care nor remember God the ultimate owner in their dealings.

Imagine how the Church would be if all the members were faithfully remembering God with their substance, the Church would be very wealthy and transform society with social services. God has given us the best; let us remember Him too and worship Him with our best gifts and offerings in humble appreciation. Appreciating God must not be a challenge especially to us believers.

Sometimes even those who think things are not well with them now, should not focus on the future and better life in heaven which of course we must invest into but they must count the available blessings of God and worship Him as such. The shrewd steward thought it wise to prepare for the next life, why can't we do the same, we reconcile with the people around us so that we prepare for the next life. Let us try to be good stewards even to our fellow human beings, including resources like time.

CONCLUSION

How we use our money is a good test of the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our lives. Money and possessions belong to God and not us, let's use our stewardship mandate wisely, money can be used for good or evil, let us use ours for good causes.

The goodness with God is that, He does not look at what you have given; but on what you have left home, our value system reveals the nature of our hearts, where our real treasures lay. God also evaluates our motives and the quality of what we offer to Him. We should not worry about how much we are giving, for all things are God's in the first place. We should joyfully give back to God our best in time, money, possession and talents. Most importantly we should take care of ourselves.

May the good Lord bless us all!

Amen!

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK
REV. DANIEL KABOLWE, ST STEPHENS CONGREGATION, SAMFYA
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STEWARDSHIP WEEK AND SUNDAY'S SERMON OUTLINE**

**FOR ANY FURTHER DETAILS GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MISSION &
EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT ON THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS:**

+260 977 753 999/+260 978 961 329/+260 955 883 221