

“The Value of Giving: Talent”
Pentecost 23, Proper 26C – October 31, 2010
Habakkuk 1:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144;
2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10.

Introduction:

We are in the midst of our season of Stewardship emphasis. This year’s theme is “The Value of Giving”. Giving of ourselves for others is at the heart of Christian stewardship. That was the lesson of Jesus’ life and ministry. In Matthew’s Gospel (20:26-28), Jesus had this to say about the value of giving our selves for others: *“...whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

In today’s Gospel lesson a chief tax collector, Zacchaeus, begins the process of inviting Jesus to be the Lord of his life by giving half of his possessions to the poor, and repaying anyone he has cheated four times what he took from them. He gave monetary value to all those people, what value did he receive back? Jesus said he received the very gift of salvation. What is that worth?

We give ourselves in three ways to the work of the Kingdom of God: through our Time, our Talent, and

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our Treasure. Beginning today, we will be illustrating these three “T’s” of stewardship through illustrations and personal testimonies. Don Kennon will be the first of our testifiers to the value of giving.

Though we will talk about Time, Talent, and Treasure as separate ways to give, they are really integrated within our souls. Some people will give more through their time, others through their talent, and others through their treasure but they all work together. You can’t share your talent without also giving of your time; and when your heart is engaged through the giving of your time and talent you will come to realize how valuable all this is for your life. Your money will soon follow because you realize God has a claim on that part of your life also.

Our gifts of time, talent, and treasure have value to those who received them, which means they also have value to the Kingdom of God. Because our gifts have value to the purposes of God they become touch points of blessing from God back to us.

In God’s economy, all of us are gifts from God to this world, our families, our community, our church, and other people we don’t yet know. We are gifts from God to others, and we are gifted by God with talents God uses to bless others. That’s why it takes all of us working

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together for the ministry to advance.

Here to shear with us this morning is Don Kennon. Don serves on our Vestry, chairs the Long Range Planning Committee, serves on the Finance, Facilities, and Equipment Committee, is a Lay Eucharistic Minister and a Lay Eucharistic Visitor. Additionally, Don serves on the Diocesan Board, is the President of our Deanery, and will also be teaching the new adult Bible Study Class beginning next Sunday at 9:00.