

# The Sin of Being Wasteful

Sunday, September 27, 2020

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Luke 16:1 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

**Waste"ful, a.**

1. Full of waste; destructive to property; ruinous; as, *wasteful* practices or negligence; *wasteful* expenses.

2. Expending, or tending to expend, property, or that which is valuable, in a needless or useless manner; lavish; prodigal; as, a *wasteful* person; a *wasteful* disposition.

- I. A steward is someone who manages the resources of another.
  - A. His responsibility is to see to it that everything is managed properly and put to the right use, so that nothing is lost.
  - B. He must be of the proper character and mind or he is not qualified to be a steward
    1. He must have a mind that habitually thinks of being frugal, thrifty, sparing, economical.
    2. Saving unnecessary use or expense.
  - C. A steward cannot be one who is liberal and wasteful and unmindful of waste.
    1. He cannot lavish in his spending, but restrained.
    2. Not extravagant in his plans and desires, but cautious and conservative
    3. Not profuse (overboard and liberal to excess – overindulgent) for himself or for others.
- II. Now we need to understand right here that we are no more than stewards in this life.
  - A. All that we possess is not really ours because we will leave it here on earth when we die, and someone else will possess it then.
  - B. All that we use while we are here – the air, the water, the food, everything we need for life is provided for us by God – it is not ours.
  - C. All that we have in this life we are simply managing for a short time.
  - D. Some will be quick to say, “Well, being a miser is just as wrong.”
    1. A miser is selfish and greedy – a child of God that is a good steward of what God has given him is not stingy and selfish and greedy.
    2. But neither is a good steward careless and wasteful with what God has given him to work with.
    3. But where does our problem really lie? And which way is there more error? Being misers, or being too careless with our stewardship?
    4. Being misers is not really our problem, but being great wasters is a major problem for us.
- III. Consider some things we waste:
  - A. Money: we waste pennies, and we waste thousands of dollars.
  - B. We waste food so that is shameful.
  - C. Drinks (bottled water, soda, etc.)

1. Most people only drink a few sips and the rest is wasted.
  - D. Clothes (washing them)
    1. We all have more clothes than can fit in our closets and drawers.
    2. Changing clothes before they need washing is wasteful of water, soap, appliances, electricity, and the work that is involved in the process.
  - E. Paper (toilet paper, paper towels, plastic cups, etc.)
    1. It is very common for people to plug the toilet using so much toilet paper at once.
    2. I see people using paper towels like toilet paper, too, reeling off 3 or 4 towels to dry the water off their hands.
    3. I see people take a plastic cup, get a small drink of water, and throw it in the trash.
    4. Conscience should condemn anyone for these things because it is wasteful and shows all the bad character of a person who has no concept of the value of things and does not care about it either.
  - F. Wear and tear on our things (cars, appliances, etc.)
    1. Your car will only last so long and it will be worn out.
    2. Your tires will only go so many miles and you will have to buy new ones.
    3. You are spending much more than just what the gas costs when you go somewhere.
    4. What about the risk you are taking of you or those with you in the car getting killed or crippled for life?
    5. Every time we get in it to go somewhere we should count the cost honestly and be a good steward of what we have and of our lives and good health.
- IV. We should not think only in terms of things when it comes to stewardship.
- A. Time: Minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years.
    1. How much of our life is simply wasted because of the time spent just ambling about with no purpose or goal of anything to accomplish?
    2. Time is the measure of the value of your life – you only have so many minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, and years to experience life.
    3. We should be conscious of wasting our time.
  - B. Thoughts (worry, fretting, vanity, etc.)
    1. These things are using our mind to no good purpose and therefore a waste of such a precious resource as the ability to think.
    2. Many are losing that ability in their old age, and some earlier – use it wisely and appreciate it now.
  - C. Strength (Wearing ourselves out physically for no good purpose or goal)
    1. Playing and running to and fro only to entertain ourselves or others.
  - D. Life itself
    1. Like wasting time, we waste our very life by spending it up on things of this world and not laying up treasures in heaven.
      - a) Our affections, our interests, our cares.
  - E. Tears (we weep over things that are not worthy of our tears and are stone hearted about things that should make us weep)
  - F. Words (this is a big one here; take an honest look at how many of our words are simply wasted; they do absolutely no good to anyone and have no lasting value whatsoever).
- V. There are some serious character flaws in those who are wasters.

- A. Wasters are not thankful or grateful.
- B. They do not appreciate what they have, where it came from, and they expect others to provide for them in the future.
- C. They do not appreciate the value of things, or consider what it costs someone else for them to have those things.
- D. Wasters are usually lazy.

Proverbs 18:9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.