



## *Faithful Stewards*

"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" (Mark 8:36 ESV)

The Bible is clear that worldly profit has no value compared to the soul. Does that mean profit is bad? If we experience abundance, how should we handle it?

Our mission at Gehman Accounting is to steward God's good gifts, not collect profit for worldly gain. However, good stewardship usually involves some form of profit. Many clients come to us predisposed to believe that profit is bad, but we propose that profit can be a good thing. It enables us to care for our families, share with needy neighbors, and expand the kingdom of God around the world. Profit allows us to develop an abundance that can be enjoyed and generously shared. While profit does

not satisfy the needs of the human soul, it is a resource that can be used for good purposes.

If we examine profit and stewardship through a biblical lens, two things are clear: 1) God calls us to be faithful stewards. 2) The love of money promotes evil.

## **Faithful Stewardship Includes Multiplication**

Our role in God's economy is that of a steward—we are simply caretakers of gifts from above. Our mission is to manage these valuable resources with wisdom and please the owner who gave them.

As stewards, we have a responsibility to invest and multiply our resources. Consider the parable in Matthew 25:14-30 where Jesus gives his three servants bags of gold to manage while he is gone on a trip. Each servant received a different amount according to his ability. Two of the servants invested their money and returned double the amount to the master. Jesus praised the servants saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a small amount, so now I will give you more responsibilities." The third servant, who

was given the least amount, did nothing to grow the money, but instead buried it in the earth, thus gaining no interest. Jesus admonished the third servant because he was not a good steward of the investment he was given. From this parable, we learn that God expects us to invest our resources, including time, spiritual gifts, and yes—even money—with an eye toward abundance.

### **The Love of Money Promotes Evil**

The Bible warns about the love of money. 1 Timothy 6:10 (KJV) says, "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." Take note that God does not condemn money or profit, but rather the love of it. When money becomes the main motivation in our lives, we are inviting evil to overtake us.

We tend to think that by making just enough to scrape by, we will be safe from the love of money. While we may have fewer temptations to spend frivolously, we are not exempt. The love of money can overtake anyone, rich or poor. Money is not the issue, but the motivation of our hearts.

As we invest resources, we must guard our hearts but also make the most of each opportunity God gives. Deliberately wasting opportunities to invest resources is a disservice to God and the mark of a poor steward.

Money is a resource of great value: We just need to be aligned with God's vision as we use it. Are we doing all we can to invest in our community, church, and the kingdom of God?

Gehman Accounting strives to be a good manager of your resources while honoring your beliefs and priorities. Contact us today to learn how we can help your business.

*—The Gehman Business Advising Team*



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