

“Stewardship is everything we do ...”

Reflections on a whole-life approach to Christian stewardship provided by the Stewardship Formation Team of the General Board



Money and Possessions



Jesus talks about how we live with our money and possessions in relationship to others more than any other subject. In a different culture and location, 2000+ years ago, Jesus understood that the accumulation of “stuff” is a hypnotizing pull against a healthy spiritual life. The parables, stories, and examples he shared pointed out that we cannot save up earthly treasures for spiritual gain!

How do we apply Jesus’ teachings to our lives on a day-to-day basis when considering buying and spending? Here are some personal and family habits to develop:

1. **SLEEP ON IT:** Disciple yourself to “never spend today what you can put off until tomorrow.” Often the perspective of a new day lessens our urgency to spend or acquire.
2. **CONSIDER “WANTS vs NEEDS”:** In a world where many cannot buy what they need to survive, ask yourself about your motivations: Is your purchase needed for simple, basic living - or is it unnecessary and merely wanted? Would it reflect more Christ-like values to “keep it simple?”
3. **REVERSE COMPARISONS:** We North Americans often justify purchases by comparing our possessions to those of a neighbor, family member or co-worker. Try comparing yourself to someone from a ghetto, another culture or country; consider a purchase in terms of another’s needs. Ask, “*Can I own one less shirt and contribute its price to help someone who has none?*”

Contributed by Carol Joy Bowman, Stewardship Development Counselor and Congregational Life Team (Area 5), General Board

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