

## THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

### The Rich Get Richer

The holiday season has proceeded at its usual hectic pace this year, and I have had to be super organized in order to enjoy the season. I find that the more I have to do, the more I can accomplish, simply because of the need to be organized. People seem to ask the busiest people to do things, because they know that, somehow, these things will get done.

In the Bible, there's a parable that reminds me of this situation; it's the story of the steward:

God put stewards in charge of different amounts of money and then went away. When He came back for an accounting, He found that the one to whom He had given the most money had gone and made more. So God rewarded him by giving the man even more to be in charge of. He rewarded each steward in this way, until he came to one steward that had hidden the amount he'd been given in order to keep it safe. God wasn't at all pleased with him and took all of the money that He'd given him and gave it to someone else.

If we are among the rich of this world, and we think of the parable in terms of getting more money, we may think that the idea is a good one. There's a motto: "The rich get richer." And, in this world, if you have a fair amount of money, you

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will probably be able to make that amount grow; the more we have, the more we'll get.

If, on the other hand, we are the ones without much money, then the prospect of having even that small amount taken away can be very disheartening and not a very good idea at all. Yet, in this world, if we literally hide what little money we have, hoping to keep that small amount safe, inflation will eat away at the amount until, eventually, it is worthless and we have nothing; what little we have will have been taken away.

Of course, the parable is true on many levels. What if "money" were replaced with the concept "something of value"...and, speaking on a more spiritual level, "something of value" was a person's faith in God? The person who finds ways to make his faith grow will be rewarded with even more faith; however, the person who doesn't increase his faith...who, in fact, even hides that faith from those around him...will lose what little he has.

We can travel in a particular direction, moving, gaining momentum...or we can sit still and get nowhere. If we choose to move, then we will be given more distance from our previous position. Where am I heading with this paper? I am heading in the direction that I have already chosen to follow, because God gives me more of what I already have.

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There is a saying that “If you want to get something done, give the job to a busy person.” I know a person who, for a long time, lived from day to day on very little money, but when I asked him to tutor my daughter, he gladly helped and refused to take any money from me. My friend, whose heart was greater than his pocketbook, received a larger heart. And in addition God will see to his needs, because he is rich in spirit and becomes richer all the time.