

# THE CHRISTIAN'S STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE

## My Decision

### Part II

#### 3. Ask God to set the amount

If most of us simply considered our present budget we would decide on the basis of fact and reason that they couldn't give any more. Such reasoning is understandable, but it leaves out two elements – God and time. There is no faith involved and no plan. Now is the time to pray – “Lord what do You want to do through me? I am willing and ready to be the conduit through which flows your provision for whatever time you want to supply my need.”

God knows your present financial position, but He also knows what He has in store for you in the future. What he told Jeremiah, He says to you:

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord; Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 29:11-14a)

He will lead you to give proportionately. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament emphasize proportionate giving.

Both the rich and the poor (and all in between) are to give according to what they have (the start) and what God intends to give them (in the next three years).

As you pray, God will lead you to a sacrifice. This is God's way of measuring our gifts. Remember David said, “God forbid I should offer that which costs me nothing (a sacrifice).”

This may be more than you think you can give, but it isn't. God never leads one to give unless He has already planned to provide. This is revelation giving or faith giving and it is giving God's way. And, remember, “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” (Hebrews 11:6)

Sacrifice you see is more an attitude than an amount! It indicates that you have first given yourself to the Lord (II Corinthians 8:5).

#### 4. Anticipate God's blessings

Look for God's rewards for your obedience to His guidance.

- "I'll ... pour out a blessing so great you can't handle it all." (Malachi 3:9,10)
- "Give and it shall be given unto you ... full and over flowing." (Luke 6:38)
- "As a man sows so shall he reap." (II Corinthians 9:6)
- "You will be enriched." (II Corinthians 9:11)

The blessings will be financial for He gives to us that we might give to others. He gives that we might get that we might give and the cycle continues.

But even greater are the personal blessings of peace, joy, and happiness and the sense of knowing that you are God's partner in His Kingdom work.

Now, back to that personalized commitment card. Complete it; bring it to the church; place it on the altar – an act of sacred worship.

We know the names of every man who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. But who knows anything about Thomas McKean? He is one of the most unusual of all the signers, yet his name is almost lost to history. And for a good reason ...

John Hancock signed the Declaration first, with a large, bold signature, and remarked that King George III could read that without eyeglasses. But Thomas McKean couldn't say that, for in 1786 he signed one of the greatest documents ever written – five years after it had been adopted in 1781. His signature did not count; was not needed and had no impact to challenge the people before the great conflict.

In a few days you are going to hold that commitment card in your hand. You need to do what will show your faith in God's provision and the depth of your love. Complete your prayer process NOW and complete the card as God leads.

Your church needs you to. Your Pastor and leaders want you to. Your self-esteem begs you to. If you listen, I believe you will hear the Holy Spirit whisper – "Do it now!"

*Lord, I hear your "still small voice" and will do it now – in love and in faith.*