AGAPE WORSHIP CENTER INTERNATIONAL (AWCI)

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tes & Hunouncemen AWCI SERMO DATE: August 24th, 2025

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SERMON TITLE: Giving God Our Best Where It Matters Most: "Intentional Stewardship at the Altar"

KEY PASSAGE

SPEAKER: Bishop (Dr.) Vincent Collins

Genesis 22:9–14 (NIV): 9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." 13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.

Romans 12:1 (NIV): Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV): 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

INTRODUCTION

When most people hear the word "stewardship," their minds immediately jump to money. But in Scripture, stewardship goes far beyond dollars—it's about how we manage everything God has entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasure.

In Genesis 22, Abraham built an altar and laid his son Isaac– the fulfillment of God's promise—upon it. Abraham's willingness to surrender Isaac defined true stewardship: obedience, trust, and surrender. Stewardship isn't just a concept; it touches every part of our lives—how we use our time, serve with our talents, and release our treasure.

SERMON POINTS

Point 1: Stewardship of Our Time

Present Your Body as a Living Sacrifice

• Stewardship begins with obedience. When we obey, we create space for God to do what we could never do in our own strength.

Scriptures: • Genesis 22:9–10 – Abraham's altar of surrender.

• Luke 14:33 – "Those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.'

Romans 12:1 – "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Point 2: Stewardship Positions You for God's Provision Give God Your Best Moments

• Stewardship of talents means using our abilities to bless others and glorify God.

Scriptures:

- Genesis 22:13–14 "Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns... So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide."
- Philippians 4:19 "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."
- 1 Peter 4:10 says: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

Point 3: Stewardship Reveals the Heart of Worship Give God Your Best Resources

• Stewardship of treasure means trusting God enough to release back to Him what He has already entrusted to us.

Scriptures:

- Malachi 1:7–8 "You place defiled food on my altar. But you ask, 'How have we defiled you?""
- Matthew 6:21 "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- 2 Corinthians 9:6–7 "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously... God loves a cheerful giver."
- Malachi 3:6–10: "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

BEYOND THE MESSAGE

When we give God our best in stewardship, something transformative happens in our lives.

Stewardship is more than handling money—it's about managing our time, talents, and treasure in a way that honors the Lord. When we intentionally put Him first, our devotion is strengthened.

Matthew 6:33:

'But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'

• Start each day with prayer and time in His Word. This centers our hearts on Him and fuels our spirit for the day ahead.



Stewardship deepens our trust in the Lord.

Tithing and giving offerings, especially when it stretches us, teaches us that God's provision is greater than our paycheck.

Malachi 3:10:

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse... and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

• Each time we give, we are reminded that God is Jehovah Jireh—our Provider.

Faithful stewardship multiplies our impact.

1 Peter 4:10:

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

• Even the smallest offering of service can have an eternal impact in God's hands.

Closing Thought:

Serving behind the scenes, encouraging a friend, or offering a simple word of kindness may feel ordinary to us, but in God's hands, it becomes extraordinary.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: There are multiple ways to sign up for an event. You can scan the QR code, visit our website, or sign the signup sheet in the foyer under the event registration section.

August 13th -August 27th at 7:00 pm- Wednesday Night Series: The Power of Prayer

Sept. 3rd - Oct. 8th at 7:00 pm: Wednesday Night Bible Study: Blueprint of Faith: The Nehemiah Bible Study!

Sept. 7th- at 1pm-3pm- Next Step Class: All new church members and guests looking to learn more about AWCI are invited to attend.

Sept. 20th at Weston Lake at 10am & Sept. 28th at AWCI after 11AM service - Our next water baptism celebration—scan the QR code and sign up throughout August to take this powerful step of faith! If you'd like to be baptized sooner or in August, just let us know and we'll gladly work with

Sept.21st- Church Anniversary and Pastoral Appreciation Celebration

Sept. 20th at 10:00 am-4:00 pm —Annual Church Picnic. More details coming soon.

Oct. 15th-Nov. 19th at Various Dates & Times: Fall Into Fun: Agape's Interest Groups. Scan the QR Code to sign up today. For more information, contact the Christian Education Department.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES



Sunday School

- Every Sunday at 10:10 am-10:55 am.
- Scan QR Code to Sign Up & receive a digital copy of the Sunday School Book.

Men's Ministry Meeting.

- Every 3rd Saturday, 8:30 AM.
- At Agape Worship Center International
- All men are invited.
- More information: Contact Deacons Teddy Spence or Eureka Washington.

Breakfast For Champions: Weekday Devotion & Prayer

- Monday-Friday at 7 am
- Call In: 717-908-1690 Access Code: 577625

Intercessory Prayer

• Every 1st, 2nd, and 4th Monday at 6:30pm-7:30pm

Virtual Midday Bible Study - Starting Back August 14th, 2025

- Every Thursday at noon
- Call In: (470)869-2200 (US East)
- Meeting ID: 393-678-9202
- Virtual:meetings.ringcentral.com/j/3936789202

CONNECT, GROW, BELONG!

Whether you're a first-time guest or a long-time member, we invite everyone to fill out our Connect Card—just scan the QR code to update your information, share prayer requests, and take your next step, whether that's joining a membership class, signing up for baptism, finding a life group, volunteering, or simply learning more about our church.