

Mid-week Stewardship Thought

Prepare the Way

During Advent, as we prepare our minds and hearts for the birth of Jesus, we are reminded of how John the Baptist prepared the people for the coming of Christ. John the Baptist, who lived during the time of Jesus, was God's special messenger. When people were questioning who he was, he said, "*I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'*" (John 1:23).

If John the Baptist lived today, he probably would be asked to serve on the stewardship committee. It is evident from his teachings that he understood the importance of putting others' needs before our own. He said, "*Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none...*" To the tax collectors John said, "*Collect no more than you are authorized to do.*" When the soldiers asked him what they should do, he replied, "*Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusations, and be content with your wages*" (Luke 3:11-14).

John the Baptist was warning the people about being greedy. Greed will keep us from sharing our clothes and food with people in need, and it will cause us to take and collect more money from people than is right.

In our Advent preparations, let us not only ask the Lord to open our hearts to Him, but let us ask that He would enable us to use the gifts and resources which He has given us to help those around us.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for Your love and mercy. Help us to share Your love with others. Amen.

Blessings on your stewardship journey!