



one congregation | multiple locations

*We care and share, serve and
celebrate through God's love in
Christ.*

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Jubilee Collective

Vancouver YWCA
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The Power of Wealth in Holy Hands

Stewardship 2023

*Remember the Lord your God; for it is He who gives you
power to get wealth. Deuteronomy 8:18*

*God is able to provide you with every blessing in
abundance, so that you may always have enough of
everything and may provide in abundance for every good
work. 2 Corinthians 9:8*

Dear Members and Friends of Messiah,

In Holy Hands. That has been our focus this autumn as we explore the responsibility of the congregation to administer the Sacraments and proclaim the Gospel. The Sacraments, though simple elements of water, wine, and bread, contain immense power when connected with the Word of God. Through Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the spoken Word, we, the members of Messiah, have the power to forgive sins and usher in the Kingdom of God.

God has also given us the responsibility of managing great wealth. By comparison, we are among the world's richest people. As Christians, we believe that everything we have is God's, and we are stewards of that wealth. So how do we show responsibility of holding this power of wealth? Like the Sacraments, we unleash the power by giving it away.

Wealth and riches are interesting phenomena in the Bible. In the Old Testament, wealth is seen as a sign of God's blessings, while in the New Testament we find numerous warnings about how riches and wealth can do more harm than good in our relationship with God. God does want His children to have good things in abundance and He wants us to share in that abundance. However, having money tends to entice us into thinking we have wealth by our own doing, and thus become self-assured with little need for God.

This brings us back to the word ***Stewardship.*** With our belief that what we have is put there from God in order to manage (steward) according to His ways. God does bless us. Our hands become Holy Hands to do the good that needs to be done in a broken world. ***In Holy Hands,*** wealth is a powerful instrument that feeds a hungry world, provides healthcare to the sick, educates the untrained, and shares the abundance of the creation.

Prayerfully consider how you will use the power of God's wealth. It is through your ***holy hands*** that we together carry on the mission of the Church.

In Christ's Holy Name,

Doug Ruecker
Financial Secretary