

GENEROUS LIVING

ALL OF ME
IN RESPONSE TO ALL OF HIM



Cliff graduated from pharmacy school and began working for a large drugstore chain. He enjoyed working with customers, even though counting pills and typing labels was boring.

One day the store manager summoned him. "You're a good worker," he said. "I'm being transferred, and I recommended you as my replacement."

Cliff accepted the promotion to store manager, and continued to work just as faithfully as he had as pharmacist. "One thing I keep uppermost in my mind," he says: "What would the owners want me to do in this situation?"

Each of us has been promoted to manage a "store" for God. It may seem we've started at the bottom, and our work insignificant, but God will bless us if we labor faithfully. No matter who signs our paycheck, it ultimately comes from God's treasury.

God takes a risk when He puts us in charge. We often use God's funds selfishly, and we could let our possessions prevent us from doing God's work. He wants to teach us generosity; it is the only way we can overcome selfishness. In Malachi 3:10, God promises that as we faithfully tithe and share blessings

with others, He sends us more.

A perfect example of this can be found in Matthew 25:14-30. A man preparing for a trip entrusted his possessions to his servants. He apportioned his wealth to them on the basis of their abilities. The first two invested and multiplied their master's money. Both were commended as "good and faithful servants", and were rewarded. The third servant dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. The master rebuked this servant for being lazy.

In this season of Thanksgiving, let us reflect on the many blessings that God gives us. He has given us the treasurers of His grace, our time, talents, minds, bodies and material possessions. He asks us to manage them for Him. He expects us to "make a profit" for Him. We do this by reflecting His character when we help others. As we faithfully and joyfully manage God's material blessings, our attitude toward Him will become that of Manager rather than Owner. Whatever we do, let us do it joyfully and faithfully and for the glory of God!

All of you in response to all of Him!

--From *Partners*

In Mission & Ministry,

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