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**What Do God's People Believe?
Part XXI**

“There was once a man who had nothing to who God gave him ten apples. The first three were for him to eat. The next three were for him to sell so he could provide for himself protection from the sun and rain.

The next three were for him to purchase clothing for himself. The last apple was so he could have something to return to God as a way of showing his gratitude for the other nine.

The man ate the first three apples. He sold the next three to provide for himself with protection from the sun and the rain, and he sold three more to provide clothing for himself. Then he looked at the tenth apple. It seemed larger and juicier than all the rest.

He knew that God have given him the apples so he would have something to return as a demonstration of his gratitude for the other nine. But he thought, *God doesn't need this apple. He owns all the apples in the world!* So he ate the apple and gave God the seeds” ¹ {Emphasis supplied}.

Friends, God doesn't need or want our leftovers, we might as well keep all that He has entrusted us with if we are selfish, and ungrateful for all He has provided!

Do you remember the widow who gave all she had? ²

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season

As a youth, I looked at the United States as the “Home of the Free, and the Brave.” The greatest country on earth, and I still hold those views. But there has been a slight paradigm shift in in my thinking in the way I regard one's socio-economic

¹ We Believe, “Signs of the Times Magazine-Special Edition,” pp. 26, 27.

² Luke 12:41-44.

status as an adult. I wonder if the so-called “American Dream,” is really “a one size fits all,” concept in today’s society when considering our less fortunate neighbors? How did Jesus view the poor widow, in light of her socio-economic condition?

We’ve probably have all noticed that even amongst 21 century Christians, many are adopting a new philosophy. A general consensus is to assess the value of others based on how much money and material stuff they possess. But when “WE” build bigger barns, bigger homes, have bigger cars, bigger incomes-“WE believe we have arrived!” We have partaken of the “American Dream!” Really?

I wonder how you and I would have reacted, if we were there. Worshipping in the temple with Jesus. Sitting in the “best seat section,” next to the Pharisees-doctors of the Law. Perhaps we would have responded just like the Pharisees did, “Putting on the Ritz,” while casting a substantial amount of our increase in the collection plate *for all the congregation to see, as the poor widow cast in her two mites-all that she had?*

Seventh-day Adventist Believe...

21. Stewardship

*“We are God’s, entrusted by Him with time and opportunities, abilities, and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are **responsible to Him** for their proper use.*

We acknowledge God’s ownership by faithful service to Him and our fellowmen and by returning tithes and offerings for the proclamation of His gospel and the support and growth of His church.

*Stewardship is a privilege given to us by God for nurture in love and the victory over selfishness and covetousness. The steward rejoices in the blessings that comes to others as a result of his faithfulness.”*³ {Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15; I Chron. 29:14; Hag. 3:1-11; Mal. 3:8-12; I Cor. 9:9-14; Matt. 23:23; II Cor. 8:1-15; Rom. 15:26, 27, Emphasis supplied}.



³ Seventh-day Adventists Believe, “A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Beliefs,” 2005, pp. 301-310.