

10 Respect for Our Resources

Reflection

As public servants, what kind of lifestyle is expected of us? Are we able to use our time, talents and treasures wisely?

Inspiration from the Holy Bible

The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? (Luke 16:10-12)

Inspiration from the Holy Qur'an

"...eat of (each of its fruit when it yields and give its due [zakah] on the day of its harvest. And be not excessive. Indeed, He does not like those who commit excess." (Surah Al-An'am 6:141)

"O children of Adam, take your adornment at every masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess." (Surah Al-A'raf 7:31)

Hadith

Anas bin Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah, (PBUH), said: "There is none among the Muslims who plants a tree or sows seeds, and then a bird, or a person or an animal eats from it, but is regarded as a charitable gift for him." (Sahih Muslim)

Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah, (PBUH), said: "If the Resurrection were established upon one of you while he has in his hand a sapling, then let him plant it." (Musnad Ahmad)

How do we show respect for our God-given resources?

- a. Be a responsible steward of our time. A steward is someone who manages or looks after property, people or supplies, usually for someone else. God has given us all the same amount of time 24 hours in one day and we must use this time sensibly. For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to cry and a time to laugh. A time to grieve and a time to dance. A time to love and a time to hate. A time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1,2,4,8)
- b. Be a responsible steward of our God-given talent. God has endowed us with our own set of capabilities and we must use them wisely.

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. (1 Peter 4:10-11)

- c. Be a responsible steward of our treasure. God has granted us the ability to produce wealth, if we follow His commands to be wise and industrious. But He also warns us against greed and the temptation to display ostentatious wealth.

The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get. (Proverbs 21:20)

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own." (Luke 12:15)

Challenge

What is our most significant learning today? How will we apply it to our own life?

Prayer

Praise God for His goodness and grace in our life. Ask forgiveness for our sins. Thank Him for the blessings we have received.

If we have any prayer requests, let us pray for one another.

We end the meeting with this declaration of faith: Lord, teach us to realize that life is short, so that we may grow in wisdom. Guard our minds, hearts and tongues so that our thoughts, words and deeds focus on things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Help us to speak words of faith, words of power, words of love and words of life to our families and to each other. Encourage us to count our blessings and be grateful for everything You have given.