

Who Wants to Be a Good Steward?

CHARACTERS: Margie Thompson, Phlegis Rubin, Pastor (voice only)

SETTING: The set of the ever popular game show, "Who Wants to Be a Good Steward?"

PROPS: Desk, two chairs (across from each other), and a stack of cards with questions written on them

COSTUMES: Modern day wear

SKETCH OPENS MID-SHOW. MARGIE IS ON HER WAY TO WINNING THE BIG PRIZE. PHLEGIS RUBIN AND MARGIE ARE SITTING ACROSS FROM EACH OTHER. APPROPRIATE GAME SHOW MUSIC MAY BE ADDED IF AVAILABLE.

Phlegis: (As if into camera) We're back from commercial and Margie Thompson must give us her decision. Margie, are you going to quit now or have you decided to go for the big prize?

Margie: I'm going to go for the big prize, Phlegis.

Phlegis: All right, here's your question. Margie, for the big win, (reading from card) What does it mean to be a good steward with your life? Is it:

1. Paying your tithe
2. Giving of your time
3. Using your talents for the Lord, or
4. Being faithful with your witness?

Margie: (Thinking out loud to herself) What does it mean to be a good steward with your life? What does it mean to be a good steward with your life? This is a tough one, Phlege. I think I'd like to use a lifeline.

Phlegis: Very well. As you know, there are three lifelines available to you. Do you want to use the 50-50, Dial-a-Friend, or Ask the Congregation?

Margie: If I ask the congregation, something tells me they'd make me split my winnings with them. I'd better go with Dial-a-Friend.

Phlegis: All right, you've indicated to our producers that you'd like us to call (names pastor). Who is he?

Margie: My pastor, Phlege. He knows everything about everything.

Phlegis: Is he home right now?

Margie: That's the only thing he doesn't know-where he lives. He's always at the church. I'd try the church number, Phlege. (Over the P.A. system, we hear a telephone dialing. Then...)

Pastor's voice: (All pastor's dialogue is over the P.A. system) Hello?

Phlegis: Hello, Rev. (fill in name)?

Pastor: Yes?

Phlegis: This is Phlegis Rubin of the ever-popular game show "Who Wants To Be A Good Steward."

Pastor: Oh, yes, of course. I watch you all the time.

Phlegis: You do, really? How do I look? I look better at night than I do in the morning, don't I? Those puffy eyes add years to your appearance, you know. Oh, I'm sorry. This isn't about me. It's about Margie Thompson, one of your parishioners, I believe. She's getting ready to go for the big prize now, but she needs your help.

Pastor: I'll do whatever I can. I hope the topic is the Bible.

Phlegis: In a way, it is, I suppose.

Pastor: By the way, our services are (lists days and times of services)

Margie: Pastor, Phlegis is waiting.

Pastor: Sorry. I just had to get that plug in. Our little ol' church can't afford nationwide exposure like this. Phlegis understands, don'tcha Phlege?

Phlegis: Uh, yes, I guess..

Margie: Pastor, the question is "What does it mean to be a good steward with your life?" Is it:

1. Paying your tithe
2. Giving of your time
3. Using your talents for the Lord, or
4. Being faithful with your witness?

Pastor: Which one is most important? Oooh, that's a tough one, Margie.

Margie: I was thinking about going with "A. Paying your tithe."

Pastor: Well, giving ten percent of our money is a good answer.

Margie: Ten percent? It's ten percent now?

Pastor: It's always been ten percent, Margie.

Margie: I thought we were just supposed to give until it hurts.

Pastor: It's ten percent. Why? How much did you give last week?

Margie: A dollar.

Pastor: You gave a dollar?

Margie: That's when it started hurting. But I don't know if the most important thing about being a good steward is money, though.

Pastor: Well, giving of our time to the Lord is certainly important.

Phlegis: Do you want to go with that?

Margie: There's a lot riding on this question, Phlege. Pastor, how sure are you about your answer?

Pastor: I'm positive. Or maybe it's "Using your talents for the Lord."

Margie: What happened to "positive"?

Pastor: Or maybe it's "Giving of your time?"

Margie: You're not really helping me, Pastor. I have a feeling I should have called Rosie O'Donnell instead.

Pastor: All right, but before I go, can I say hi to my mom? She lives in Oregon. Never misses a show.

Margie: Pastor, I'm one right answer away from the big prize and you want to say hi to your mom in Oregon? (Note: If sketch is performed in Oregon, change line to reflect another state.)

Pastor: Do you have any idea how much long distance charges are these days?

Margie: Oh, go ahead.

Pastor: Hi, mom!

Phlegis: (Clearing throat to regain their attention) Margie, I need your answer?

Margie: Don't rush me, Phlegis!

Pastor: Margie, remember your witness.

Margie: I know, but...

Pastor: That's it, Margie! Your witness! How you live your life! That's without a doubt the most important part of being a good steward! If your life doesn't line up, it doesn't matter how much money you give away, or how many talents you have to dedicate, or how much time you put into the ministry. The most important part of being a good steward is "D. Being faithful with your witness."

Margie: You're sure?

Pastor: Trust me, Margie. That's the right answer.

Margie: All right. I'm going to go with it. The answer is "D. Being faithful with your witness."

Phlegis: Is that your final answer?

Margie: Well, it does make sense. (to Phlegis) It's my final answer, Phlegie.

Phlegis: Margie, the most important thing about being a good steward is... D. Being faithful with your witness! Margie! You've won the big prize!

Margie: (excitedly jumping up and down) I can't believe it! I've won! I've won! I'm a millionaire!

Phlegis: A millionaire? Uh, no...no...sorry, Margie, that's my other show.

Margie: Oh, yeah. So, what exactly have I won?

Phlegis: You've won the knowledge of knowing that the most important thing about being a good steward is how you live your life. And that's worth far more than a measly million bucks!

Pastor: Phlegis is right, Margie. What good's a million bucks if you fail to be a good steward with your life? By the way, did I mention that our services are (restates days and times of services)?

Margie: They already know that, pastor.

Pastor: Just thought I'd sneak in a rerun.

Phlegis: Well, Margie, it's been good having you on our show.

Margie: Thanks, Phlege. And I promise that from this day forth, I'm going to be a good steward with my time, my talent, my money, and most importantly, with my witness. But before I go, can I ask you just one question, Phlege?

Phlegis: Of course, Margie.

Margie: How can I get on that other show of yours?

Phlegis: The waiting list is pretty long, Margie.

Margie: Kathie Lee would get me on.

Pastor: And you know, Phlege, we are in a building program and ten percent of a million dollars would be.. let's see...\$100,000! Why, that'd just about cover it!.

Phlegis: Okay, I'll see what I can do.

Pastor and Margie: (Together) Is that your final answer?

Phlegis: (Laughs) It's my final answer. (then as if into camera) And so, until next time, this is Phlegis Rubin asking everybody, "Who Wants to Be a Good Steward?" Good night and God bless!

BLACK OUT