

The following is a presentation given by Navarre Presbyterian Church Youth Creation Steward Caleb Dick at NPC's Youth Sunday service, May 15, 2011:

- I recently agreed to represent our church at a Presbytery meeting on “Creation Stewardship”, and I’d like to give you a very brief report.
- Our Presbytery is concerned with issues of water pollution, energy use, food availability, and other topics related to “sustainable living”.
 - Although the water we drink *here* tends to be safe, clean and safe drinking water is becoming a problem in much of the world. Some experts are telling us that access to clean water is going to be the defining issue for the rest of this century.
 - The United States uses approximately 21% of the world’s energy. As the “third-world” countries develop, the competition for resources such as oil and coal is becoming more intense.
 - 6 BILLION people now seek a bit of the lifestyle that 600 *Million* of us currently enjoy. The world market for energy is going to become more and more competitive.
 - Many of the Western nations are fighting widespread obesity, while about 800 million people around the world simply do not have enough food.
 - The world’s population is projected to exceed 7 BILLION people by October of this year.
- God entrusted us with stewardship for the earth. Jesus charged us with the care of our brothers and sisters.
 - Increasing competition for finite resources puts pressure on all the countries of the world, and can aggravate the potential for global conflict.
 - But Jesus directed us to be peacemakers, and said to us, “feed my sheep”.
 - As Christians we must figure out how to be faithful to the instructions to love one another, to bear each others’ burdens, to be servants in the spirit. In fact, we have the special challenge of doing this while both *blessed* and *burdened* by being the wealthiest people on the planet.
 - Our nation has less than 5% of the world’s population, but we have about a quarter of the world’s wealth.
 - Jesus warned that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. I think he may have been warning us of the danger of thinking that we somehow deserve a larger

share than others, of thinking that we are more *worthy*, and of forgetting to use our resources to help others.

- But Jesus also told us the parable of the servants who were entrusted with resources. The two servants who put the resources to work and increased them were praised and rewarded by their Master.
- We have been given significant resources, and we have been given clear instructions. Can we figure out how to be the good and faithful servants who put their talents to work, or will we be like the miserable servant who did nothing productive with his resources, and who was cast out into the dark by his furious Master?
- Our instructions from God and Jesus are so simple, and yet taking care of the earth and our brothers and sisters seems so challenging. Why is this so hard?
 - Our Presbytery is committed to trying to figure out ways to be faithful to our calling to be Stewards of all Creation. I can tell you that the Youth of our Church want to be part of the solution.
 - I want to encourage our Church to give serious on-going attention to learning and perfecting “sustainable living”.
 - And I will do my best to represent our Church to the Presbytery on this issue. I would be pleased to talk with anyone who has questions or suggestions!
 - May God grant us wisdom, and the courage to do his will.