

Key Text: 1 Corinthians 4:2

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?

Stewardship is the management of another person’s property, finances, or household affairs. God has appointed all Christians to be stewards of His Gifts and His work on earth through the Church. Stewardship is not an option. We will be held accountable for the way in which we manage all of God’s gifts.

What do we learn about Stewardship from the parable in Matthew 25:14-30?

- We learn that God is the owner of all things.
- We learn that we are not owners but STEWARDS.
- We learn that we will be held accountable for our stewardship.

(Additional scriptures related to God as the “owner”. Genesis 14:19,22; Psalms 24:1, 50:1-12; 89:11; Haggai 2:8. “Even your Body is owned by God”...1 Corinthians 6:20)

WHAT ARE SOME OWNER-STEWARD RELATIONSHIPS?

LIFE

Genesis 1:27-28; Acts 17:25;
Colossians 3:1-2



TIME

Ephesians 5:16;
Psalms 90:12



POSSESSIONS

Matthew 6:19-21;
Proverbs 24:30-34

FINANCES

Proverbs 27:23;
Proverbs 22:7
1 Corinthians 16:1-2



TALENTS

Ecclesiastes 9:10; Colossians
3:23; Matthew 25:14-30

WHEN THE TRUE OWNER OF ALL THINGS RETURNS... HOW WILL HE FIND YOU?

Hardworking or Lazy?

Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, *do it with all your might...*" The problem with being slow to act or neglecting our responsibility is that it causes great loss. Poverty will come and the raters of your house will sag because of laziness. Without attention and diligence, the gifts we have will be stolen or waste away. On the flip side, there is always a profit with hard work.

SelfLESS or Selfish and abusive?

Luke 12:45,47 "The Steward begins to beat the slaves and party!" Whenever we use one of God's gifts for an ungodly purpose or for something contrary to God's intentions, that act should be considered abusive.

Wise or Foolish?

Proverbs 14:1 "A wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands a foolish one tears hers down!" To be wise means, teachable. A wise person can listen and adjust to new information and instruction. Are you the kind of person who accepts instruction and listens to correction?

Ready or Surprised (*asleep*)?

Remember that we will have to be ready for God as our judge. We will answer for our actions. Are you ready? Matthew 24:46,50. Good stewards know how to keep an ETERNAL focus. They refuse to get distracted by this world and fall asleep spiritually.

Generous or Stingy?

Give what you have received of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 10:8 Also give your possessions and love. 2 Corinthians 9:6; Psalms 37:21 Do you feel like you would give more if you had more? That is not how generosity works. It is the stingy person that is always more aware of what they don't have and need more of.

FAITHFUL = LITTLE BY LITTLE UNTIL YOU ARE REWARDED

How can you take one small step toward better stewardship? If you expect to do something GIANT and quickly erase years of bad stewardship you will be disappointed. Start small and easy. Ask God to highlight something you can practice every day. Maybe you start by keeping track of spending habits. Now might not be the time for you to worry about investments. You might decide to change your bedtime or your wake-up time. These are important because "FAITHFULNESS" means that you are dependable and trusted. There should be good and predictable habits of a Godly steward evident in your life.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS NO STEWARD?

THINGS WILL GET OUT OF CONTROL

God created man in His own image in Genesis 1:27,28 and gave mankind the job of ruling. Whenever this God-given authority is neglected things begin to feel, **"Out of control!"**

Is your Life out of control? What about your closet or your lawn? Maybe you feel like a "slave" to other peoples' time or like you're a "slave" to the credit card company or bank...then God wants you to become a better steward in those areas.

Start by surrendering your will to God's will. Then choose to manage and rule over what God has entrusted to you. Before you act consult the Word and the Spirit and ask yourself if this is how God wants His money or time, or gifts to be used? You must even learn to manage and control your own freedom so that you avoid turning Gods grace into a License to SIN FREELY! A good steward will partner with the Holy Spirit to produce "Self-control" or balance in their life.

1 Cor. 6:12 and 10:23; Romans 8:6,9; Galatians 5:22-23