



Topic Stewardship

Introduction

During this weekend I want to do an in depth study of stewardship and entrepreneurship. I want to show you that in your Bible are the answers to every question you have and it does not really matter whether it is a new concept like Entrepreneurship the internet, the Bible has lots to say about any subject.

Often the subject we are looking for does not present itself in the way we think it should be and often when we find the subject, it is difficult to actually do what the Word of God says and thus we ignore but it is there none the less.

So today I want to discuss the Bible prospective of stewardship and I ask that you will listen, participate and apply these principle in your life because when you do that, the blessings of God will start to manifest in your life.

Today I am going to start with the basics of stewardship and show you, what the rewards for being a good steward are. Basically this is an overview of stewardship

Stewardship

1 Peter 4:10 *"¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

So what is stewardship?

Stewardship is the ability to look after and oversea an asset or assets in your care that was entrusted to you by another person.

So for our discussion let say these assets are things that are under your care and authority. So let summarise this and say that these are things that are under our direct care and guidance that you have the ability to control, manipulate and direct.

Another concept of stewardship you must understand is that you are not the owner of these things under your control, you are only looking after them for someone else as a job for which you will receive a reward.

And if these things in your care are well looked after and grow you will received a reward in direct proportion to that growth.

But if you do not take care of the things entrusted to your care, then you will suffer loss.



So a steward is someone like you, who has been given something that does not belong to you, to care for and tend to, for which you will be rewarded for the way it is looked after.

Example: Let say you neighbour is going away for a year and asks you if you will look after his 100 goats for a year and that when he gets back he will pay you for looking after his goats.

So after a year he comes back and you have not looked after his goats that well. You sold 20 to buy some things you needed around the house. You ate 6 goats because you were hungry and the 30 baby goats that were born during the year you took and sold as your own. So now he only has 74 goats.

Do you think the owner of the goats will be happy with what you did? No I think he will go to the police and have you put into jail and your reward will be a few years in jail and you will have to pay back the losses!

Now the same story, but this time you still got to look after 100 goats, but this time you sold 5 goats to buy food for these goats and 5 goats died during the year and 30 baby goats were born and the owner now has 120 goats

I am sure the owner will be very happy with the way you looked after his goats and will reward you very well for the extra effort you made.

The Bible says in **Romans 14:12**, *"¹² So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God."*

For those taking notes to concept of giving an account to God of our works and deeds here on earth is spoken of also in Hebrews 4:13, Hebrews 13:7 and 1 Peter 4:5.

There will come a day not too far from today when we will each individually stand before God and give a FULL account of what we did with the things He has entrusted in our lives. ARE YOU READY!

Am I a steward?

I guess the question that everyone has is, Am I a steward? And If I am a steward what do I have to look after or what do I oversee? I do not have anything!

I am so glad you asked that question, because you are a steward, whether you know it or not. You have very precious resources that you are responsible for and



for which you will one day have to give and account.

Remember in the story of the coins – which we will look at later, the bad servant's money was taken and given to the faithful servant.

So the question is what do you have that belongs to someone else?

- a) The first thing that you have is your life – your time here on earth. What have you done with your life?

God has given you the breath of life and you are responsible for your own life. Not the life of someone else, your own life. You are a steward over your own body. What you eat, what you drink, where you go and what you say.

In fact you can decide to go to sleep, go to work or church and you get to decide how you will spend your time but one day when you die, you will stand before God and give an account of what you did with your time here on earth, what you did with your life!

Did you surrender your life over to God and make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life or did you not think that was necessary and basically you rejected Him?

Did you go to church on Sundays or was it so nice to sleep late.

The fact is God is going to hold us accountable for how we spent our time / our life! And we will stand before Him without any excuses or being able to blame anyone else!

- b) Secondly what did you do with your money?

Many people do not realise that God has lots to say about our money, most of us think that the pastor is trying to rob us of our hard earned cash when it comes time for the offering.

But the truth is that God gives you the ability, strength and health to earn a living. Not only does He do that but He gives us free light, free water, free air and other things so that we can work.

The fact of the matter is that God owns everything, even that salary you earn!

Now here is the deal, God says I own everything, I give you the health, I give you your abilities, the strength, air and everything else to be able to work and all I



want for doing that is that you must give me back 10% of the 100% that is mine already, because God owns everything. And because God owns everything He says that you can keep and live on the 90% - and you must give Him His share which is 10% - which we call a tithe.

Do you think that is fair? Yes it is, because I am a testimony of that miracle working in my life! I tithe and God makes my 90% do more than 100% could ever do.

We will never tithe if we do not understand and acknowledge the God owns everything, even the money in your pocket or bank account right now. And that His Word in Malachi 3 asks us to test Him with Tithing to see if He will not pour out a blessing upon us.

You see according to **Matthew 6:24** – we either serve God or Mammon or another word for it is money. Whether you are rich or poor, famous or not so famous, big or small, white or black, it does not matter – we either serve God or we serve money!

There are only two things people sever – God or money!

So how do we know which we serve? If acknowledge that God owns everything, the full 100% of all you have, and you practice this principle by tithing regularly!

You are saying to God, Lord I believe that all I have is yours and I trust You enough to put my faith in the law of tithing and I choose to believe your Word and not my mind then you are serving God.

But if you are not tithing, for whatever reason or excuse you might have. I am too poor, I do not have money, the pastor has enough money already, I do not want to give my hard earned money away – it does not matter the excuse or reason – then I am sorry to say this but you are not serving God but you are serving Mammon or Money!

And according to **Malachi 3:8-12** – you are a robber and are under the curse of God because you do not tithe. ⁸Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, "How are we robbing you?" In tithes and offerings. ⁹You are under a curse – your whole nation – because you are robbing me. ¹⁰Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,' says the LORD Almighty. ¹²Then all the nations will call you blessed, for



yours will be a delightful land,' says the LORD Almighty."

You see God want us to be good stewards of the finances He has put into our hands but to faithfully tithe and making provision for our future. God wants us to be like Him and in **2 Corinthians 9:7** says *"...God loves a joyful giver..."*

And because God has entrusted His wealth to us and we are stewards of this wealth, we will give an account to God personally how we spent/used our money or His wealth!

So God owns everything and He wants you to be a joyful giver and so He wants you to be tither and bless others this the wealth He has put into your hands.

- c) Your Gifts – Each and every one of us have unique gifts and so unless we are good stewards of these gifts and use them to bless others and glorify God we are not good stewards.

Each one of us here today and though out the whole world will stand before God and give an account of how we used our gifts. Did we use then to glorify Him or to boast ourselves according to **Romans 14:12**.

- d) Your family and children – what are you as the father or mother doing to reflect the love and blessing of God on your children and towards others? Does your home look no different from a non believes home. Do you and your spouse fight like cat and dog?

God is going to hold you responsible and you will give an account of how you trained, taught and blessed your family in the ways of God and how you provided for them and looked after them physically and spiritually!

- e) Your marriage – What did you do with your marriage? Did you make your spouse happy and were you a blessing to them or were you a source of much pain and suffering?

Did you hurt your spouse? Did you sleep around? Did you neglect your spouse? Did you hold them in esteem and as precious?

We will stand before God one day and give a FULL account before Him how we treated our spouses.



In fact there is no area that we have in our control that we will not one day stand before God and give a full account to Him of what we did with the things entrusted to us by Him.

Remember we cannot lie, we cannot explain it away or say but they did this to me! All you and my thoughts, our idle words, our actions, everything we did and how we did it will be tested before God and we will give and account!

If what we did stands the test of fire, we will get a reward, but if it fails the test of fire we will escape only with our lives if our names are written in the Lamb's book of life, but if not then we will be imprisoned in Hell for ever and ever!

Closing

Now I know I have everyone's attention and I am about to close this session. I want us to apply the things I have spoken about in this session in our lives.

I want to ask you, have you been a faithful, good steward in every area of your life. Of all the things, Spouse, children, family, friends, colleagues, money, resources, your life, your body – everything that God has entrusted to you in your life, we will give a FULL account of!

Now there are four types of people here today.

1. Firstly those who do not care and I am really sorry for you, I pray that the Holy Spirit will convict you and change your heart because you are heading for a Christless eternity.
2. Secondly those who do not know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. You know that your name is not written in the Lamb's book of life and you want to change that.
3. Thirdly, there are those who now know you are a steward, and you have realised that you have not been such a good steward and you want to repent.
4. Lastly those who have submitted their lives totally to God and are living the life of a good faithful steward without any issues – you are 100% up to date with everything God has given you and entrusted into your life!

Let's pray