



# Topic Stewardship

## Introduction

As I bring all the session on Stewardship to close, in this message. I want to bring everything together into one final message.

In this message I want to use a passage of scripture to teach us the implications of being a good steward and the implications of not being a good steward.

In the past few sessions I have shown you that Stewardship is more than just our money, it is more than what we possess or have.

The concept of Stewardship, it is anything that has been entrusted to you for which you have the power to manage or use. It is being over these things which have been put into your hands to be managed for God Himself and for which as a steward you will have to give an account before God.

I have also shown, that everything we have is a gift from God and that God wants you to manage on His behalf and for which you will have to give an account, like your money, your spouse, your family, your friends, your possessions and much, much more.

As I said at the start of this series on Friday, there is so much more to stewardship than we can imagine, so I believe that until now you have been amazed and your eyes have opened to the concepts and ideas of Godly stewardship.

## Examples of Godly stewardship

The Bible is full of examples of stewardship, in fact every story in the Gospels are a story of stewardship. Here is an example of a few.

- The parable of the seeds – showing us that what we sow, we will reap and also how we sow.
- The parable of the lost coin, the lost sheep – showing us that we are accountable to God for our possession and managing them properly.
- The story of the ten virgins – that we must always manage the resources we have been given to ensure that we have enough.
- The story of the king and the unforgiving servant – showing us that we need to forgive others with the measure that has been given or entrusted to us.
- The things that Jesus Christ did for us, and paid for us at Calvary that HE expects us to minister to others.
- The Gospel that has been given to us and which we too must go out and preach to



other. For as we received the good news of Jesus Christ, so too we must share this Good News with those who do not know Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

And many, many more.

I have said all this just for the benefit of those who were not here on Friday and Saturday and also as an introduction to today's message.

### **The cost of being a Steward**

Sadly whether you know it or not, you are a steward of the resources that God has entrusted to you and the way you manage these resources will determine your reward.

God has entrusted great wealth, great healing, and paid a great price for your Salvation, breaking the curse, your forgiveness, mercy, sanctification, righteousness, justification, reconciliation, ambassadorship, adoption, healing and so, so, so much more that the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ has paid for that we could spend a lifetime and not comprehend it all.

So because much has been invested into your life, there is a price to pay to be paid for being a good steward – the cost of doing what God has told you today and the cost of managing what God has entrusted to you.

These costs can be financial, cost you your time and effort, trials and rejection, but it is an investment well made because the rewards for being a faithful steward are tremendous and eternal.

Sadly there is a serious price to be paid for not being a good steward. If you waste your resources or misuse them, when you come before God to account, you will be found lacking and that will mean serious loss in your future and can even affect your eternal soul!

So let's look at our scripture today: **Matthew 25:14-30** <sup>14</sup>*Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more." <sup>21</sup>His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" <sup>22</sup>The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more." <sup>23</sup>His master replied, "Well done, good and*



*faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" 24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you." 26 "His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

So in this parable there are four main characters, the man going on the journey who is a type of Jesus – He arose and went away on a journey to heaven to prepare a place for us with Him in heaven.

The three servants / stewards who the owner entrusted his possessions too, to look after while he was away. Note the master only gave each steward an amount of money that he was able to manage.

Each of these stewards chose to administer what they had received in a different way and each was to receive a reward according to what he did or did not do in the area of stewarding the money put into his care.

Remember the master expect and wanted his possession to increase during the time he was gone just as if he was there managing his three servants / stewards.

We also see from this parable that the master knew his three servants well and he gave them each equal opportunity to excel by the amount he gave to each of them.

### **The wise and faithful servant**

So to the servant who was most trust worthy and who was a good manager he knew he could put more money at his disposal to manage.

God will never give you more than you can manage, because if He gives you more than you can manage you will be corrupted. So my question to you, is not your current predicament, the way your life is now because God knows that if He give you more He will corrupt you?

Who here wants God to bless them more than they have now? Show yourself worthy. For example many people ask God for more money and promise that when they get this increase in finances that they will start to tithe or give Him there 10%.

You see God knows that if you cannot tithe now when you are in need you will neither tithe when you have more. God says it like this – if you are faithful in little you



will be faithful in much!

You see your blessing is directly proportional to your stewardship, you can see from this passage that the one who went the extra mile and worked hard as a steward was rewarded with even more and the one who hid the treasure was cursed and accused of being lazy.

You see the three types of servants / stewards show us three types of stewards we can be.

Firstly we can be the steward that got the most gold, was the most trustworthy of the master's stewards. He must have proved himself worthy by working very hard at doing this right and in order and put his faith in God and understands that what is entrusted to him must grow and bear fruit. This is like a Christian who is born again and understands that he/she is a steward of everything God has given them and goes the extra mile doing all that God intended him to do and God increases the investment he/she made, a good steward.

The second steward was also faithful but the master knew he was not able to look after too much so he gave him two bags of gold to manage for him while he was away. The main thing both these servants had was a right relationship with the master and faith that if they worked hard for their master, they would receive a reward from him!

Lastly there is the lazy steward, he did not have a good relationship with his master because he saw him as a fearful person and he did not have faith that his master would reward him, as he hid the money in the ground.

This is like many people who attend church, they think that by going to church and reading their bible is enough and they live their life as if they are still in the world.

They hide the fact that they are Christians and even if you asked their spouse or family if they are a Christian everyone will be amazed that you think that because although they go to church there is no real power in their lives and no evidence of God in their lives.

These people are treated like any other un-faithful servants. They will receive a loss of their possessions and will be thrown into a place where there is darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth – where is that? That is a description of hell!

This concept of hell is described in **Matthew 8:11-13 / Matthew 13:41-43 / Matthew 14:49-51 / Matthew 22:12-14 / Matthew 24:50-51 / Matthew 25:29-31**



This is very serious, and I want you to make sure you understand this consequence for not being a good steward. Not only will you lose all you have but you will lose your souls in hell.

Jesus came that you might have life, abundant, eternal life in heaven with Him. That is the reward for the faithful stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

Are you born again? Have you asked Jesus into your heart? Then you are only at the starting point of what God has called you to do and be as a steward of His blessings.

All you have and are is a blessing from God, when will you start to manage what God has given you in the correct manner. When will you're become that good steward that God made you to be in Jesus Christ?

### **Closing**

I do not want to belabour this point, but God is calling you today to be a good, faithful steward. If you are willing and obedient, and put your faith in God so that you become that faithful steward there is much reward and blessing in this life and beyond into eternity.

But if not, if you are a lazy stewards, if you are not caring about the Kingdom and trying to be a steward of what God has given you then there will be much loss and what you have will be given to other, in this life and beyond into eternity and eventually it will cost you your eternity with Christ in heaven.

So today only you can answer this question, "I am I a faithful steward of ALL that God has entrusted into my life? Money, possessions, income, forgiveness, mercy, and all the thing Jesus Christ has entrusted to us.

Only you know how good and faithful you are and have been!

I this place there are four types of people:

1. Good and faithful stewards who have and are managing well all that God has entrusted to you through Jesus Christ.
2. Good stewards who are doing some of what God has called you to manage through Jesus Christ.
3. A fearful, scared steward who has hidden all that God has entrusted to you and you do not see God's favour and blessing in your life. There is loss.
4. You do not care or have never heard that you must be a steward of what God has entrusted to you. You are maybe not God's children because you have



never made Him Lord and Saviour of your life, you have not accepted Jesus Christ into your heart.