



Inner Growth - stewardship

And he said also unto his disciples, there was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he wasted his goods.

Luke 16:1

Steward - Genesis 44:1

Time - Genesis 8:22

Eyes/Ears - Matthew 13:15

Wisdom - Proverbs 18:15, Ecc 10:10, Pro 2:6

Activities - 1 Timothy 6:12

Responsibility - John 15:2

Doer - Psalms 31:23

Serve - 1 John 3:17

Heart - Ezekiel 36:26

Inheritance - Ephesians 1:11

People - 1 Peter 2:9

Stewardship is the position of caring for something valuable that will provide help for others. The Son of God tells the disciples about a rich man who had a steward that wasted his goods. The parable, in this case, is about God being the wealthy one. However, the steward represents the person, the creation, who is on duty to provide service. The goods could refer to funds, talents, potential, abilities, or capabilities the steward has in their grasp to deliver. At the beginning of Luke chapter sixteen, verses two through four depict the disappointment of the rich man towards the steward. The wealthy one relieved him of his duties, ordered him to give in his accounts, and decided that he should occupy his office no longer. The steward hears his doom pronounced and considers how to support himself after being discarded. He was in a

situation where he, as an unjust steward, had laid up nothing and thought incapable of bodily labor or could not submit to it, and begging would be too ashamed. He was not, however, as appears from what follows, have shame to cheat!

The unjust steward said within himself after consideration: the thought, as he doubtless accounted it, coming into his mind. He was not out of his office and resolved to use his power in such a manner as to make himself friends who would assist him in his need. The tenants or debtors of his lord, who paid their rents or debts not in money but in wheat, oil, or other produce of the ground they rented or possessed, might give him entertainment in their houses or provide for him some other means of subsistence.

Stewardship is about caring about their position and having the opportunity to help people. The qualities of love, trust, and control play a pivotal role in serving others in this line of duty. Only a few believers can sustain themselves by faithfully doing the will of God without becoming complacent. The chance to share something given and passionately give it to others is an act of love that God admires. Just not doing it for the sake of looking for a reward or a return on investment.

Genesis forty-four, verse one, was the first act of a good steward in Joseph. The one who, at the time, was governor of Egypt helped the brothers that did not know his identity by ordering the steward to put plenty of food and money in their sacks. The benefit of being a good steward is the management of assets and giving some to those in need. Sometimes, for the steward, it will be a test because there will be people we might not want to help with due to their attitude or personality. However, God looks beyond and knows the inside, while we usually monitor the outside.

Stewardship includes how well we use our time to reach the people in our environment. The day will follow the night, and one season will follow another. During that time, God will see if we are determined to reach others despite the changes in weather and inconvenient times that might not favor the steward. Imagine if God decided to hear our cries or answer our prayers based on favorable weather conditions or ideal sunlight

times. People would have to wait for these conditions to occur before making contact. The just steward will see and hear the need through God leading and directing their path. The compassionate heart desires to fulfill the verses in Matthew twenty-five, thirty-five through thirty-six. "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink; a stranger, and you took me in. Naked, you gave me clothes, sick, and you visited me, in prison, and you visit me." To demonstrate such love is only through God, who bestows this expression on good stewards.

Stewardship involves wisdom from God to help sustain the mission of being a just steward. Seeking godly wisdom and information to maintain stability in blessing others will draw favor with God and people. In First Kings, chapter three, verses sixteen through twenty-eight, we find an account of King Solomon hearing a case involving two prostitutes. The two women had recently given birth to sons and lived together in the same home. King Solomon had to justify between the two women regarding who was telling the truth.

Solomon could not tell which woman was telling the truth as each gave their side of the story. Instead, he issued a command to bring him a sword. Solomon then suggests having the living child be cut in two and give half to one and a half to the other. Both mothers react, with one mother saying, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Do not kill him!" However, the other woman, whose son had died, says, "Neither you nor I shall have him. Cut him in two!" Based on their responses, Solomon knew the identity of the true mother and gave the living child to the first mother that did not want the baby to get hurt. Why would Solomon give such an outrageous command? Did he intend to cut a baby in half with a sword?

The only intention the King had was to discover the truth. He did so by watching the two women respond and relying on the maternal instincts of the true mother. The insight into a situation will only come from the Mighty God because He knows the heart inside out. A just steward will receive wisdom from God to direct their path to make righteous

decisions of giving to those in need. Like King Solomon, God will decisively ensure that the just steward overcomes counterfeits.

Stewardship involves being active because actions speak louder than words for a just steward. Unlike the unjust steward, that did the opposite. Luke sixteen two is where the Son of God tells the disciples about the rich man who calls the steward after hearing that he wasted his goods. "How is this I hear of thee?" How would the rich man know?

The only way for the rich man to know is for someone to see the unjust steward not fulfill his duty. That confirms that our action is what will make us good stewards. We are to be diligent and do what God expects from us to receive more. The importance for the steward is to focus on fulfilling the need and not necessarily on the return. Many people in this area fail because they fixate on the thing rather than the person that needs it.

Stewardship is a responsibility to maintain and progress to consistently produce as a good steward by the will of God. In this verse, there is a clear sense of expected growth. First mentioned is barrenness, then productivity, then abundance. In terms of our spiritual lives, this is how God expects us to progress. As part of that process, we yield to His way and not try to do it our way.

Stewardship is believers serving God by serving others. Love gives, and God is love. To constantly give to folks in need from the portion a steward has from their blessings. The involvement of the person who has more than enough to meet their own and others. Not selfishly keeping material things for themselves but graciously sharing them.

In Ruth chapter two, Boaz, a wealthy man, and a landowner, serves Ruth, a Moabite, who came to find grain. He knew of her situation and told his workers to leave plenty of grain for her. Boaz offers Ruth food and the others. He encourages her to work in the safety of his fields throughout the harvest. A prime example of a good steward serving people in need.

Stewardship involves a dramatic change of the heart. A new personal temperament of mind, excellent in itself and vastly different from what it was before. A frame of soul changed from sinful to holy, from carnal to spiritual, where the laws of God exist. A steward could not

operate with an old, hard, senseless, unfeeling, inflexible heart. That central part is improper and opposing to receive divine impressions and to return any devout affections.

Jonah and the whale experience is an example of a heart that gradually changes over time. In chapter one, verses one through three, Jonah was sent to preach to the Ninevites, who had displeased God. However, Jonah decides to escape his responsibilities and climbs a boat. Things did not work out for him in verses four through nine of the same chapter. Then in verse seventeen, God sends a whale to swallow Jonah and stays in the belly for three days and nights only to return to Him.

Stewardship will require an inheritance. An inheritance was significant because most people were in the same trade as their parents. The inheritance of the believer is two-fold. First, it means becoming a child of God and gives us the right to expect an inheritance. Second, we gain eternity with the Lord dwelling in His righteousness, and a steward will carry out the duties required of them.

In Genesis, chapter twenty-five details the inheritance that Isaac plans to give to Esau. However, Jacob and Rebekah intend to gain that blessing. They risk deception to rob Esau of it only to receive the consequences that put them in a worse position than before. The importance of inheritance would make one side of a family steal the opportunity from another family member. The value in it is self-explanatory.

Stewardship is about the people and not the steward. God created man in His own image, yet His creation turned away from Him. To redeem man, He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, who reopens the door for humanity to connect again and hopefully for eternity.

Therefore, stewards must focus on the people and help meet their needs. Stewards putting others before ourselves is similar to how God placed us before Him to redeem us through His Son.

Stewardship is about having our hearts on God and people out in the world ready to give. Unlike the unjust steward who has their mind on themselves and not God. There is a

difference between having the heart on the Holy one or having it on another. Narrow is God's way: one way. Wide is the way of the world where it could be anything ungodly, which makes us do the opposite of God's will.