

Stewardship
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

Luke 16:1-13

- 1 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 had wasted his goods.
- 2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.
- 3 Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.
- 4 I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.
- 5 So he called every one of his lord's debtors *unto him*, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?
- 6 And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.
- 7 Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.
- 8 And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.
- 9 And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.
- 10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.
- 11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true *riches*?
- 12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?
- 13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

A steward is a manager, an overseer; someone who is charged with the responsibility of taking care of that which belongs to another.

The Apostles were stewards; they were placed in charge of handling the Word of God. In I Corinthians 4 Paul writes:

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

- 1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.
- 2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

When the subject of stewardship is being discussed, often the role of a preacher, particularly a pastor, usually comes up.

And thus, it should; pastors are an especially good example of what the role of a steward should be.

I am directly accountable for what is done with the Lord's resources and assets here at Lighthouse Baptist Church and how they are handled.

However, I am not the only steward in this place.

1 Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Far more important than how I handle the money, important though it may be, is how I handle the Word of God.

We all are the Lord's stewards; we, each of us, are placed in charge of overseeing many things on behalf of our master.

Here in our story today, this particular steward was accused of mishandling his master's goods.

Apparently, he was guilty.

I. He had wasted his master's goods.

A. Someone had accused him to the master.

1. Did you know that there is someone accusing you to your Master?

2. Revelation 12:10

10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

3. As best as I can tell, Satan doesn't miss much.

4. What might he have to accuse you of?

B. Have you been wasting your Master's resources?

1. Most Christians don't realize just how much they are placed in charge of.

2. Not only are we stewards; Our Lord twice over owns us!

3. First by virtue of creation and second we have bought back from our sin.

3. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

4. **1 Corinthians 7:23** Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

5. The bottom line is that I and all I have belong to the Lord, to be used for His glory.

C. There are four particular areas of “goods” we are each given and charged to faithfully use on behalf of our Master from who we received them all.

1. Time.

a. Time is what life is made of.

b. You owe a significant amount of your time specifically serving the Lord; it is a debt of love.

c. **Ecclesiastes 3:1** To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

2. Talent.

a. Your talents are given you to be used for many things; primarily for His glory.

b. What are you doing with yours?

3. Treasure.

a. It is through the free will giving of God's people that the Lord has chosen to provide for His house.

b. We know the tithe already belongs to God.
(Keeping this is not wasting goods, it is robbery).

c. Even the offering, which God commands us to choose from a heart of thanksgiving.

d. All of which our Master has provided for us first.

4. Opportunity.

Galatians 6:9-10

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

D. Some stewards are charged with greater responsibility than others.

1. Luke 19:15-20

15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, *here is* thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

2. The issue of stewardship is not one of how much or of one's particular ability.

3. The trait that makes a steward a good steward is faithfulness.

Vs. 10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

II. The steward in our story had failed.

A. Judgment has come.

1. Someone had accused our steward.

2. As a result, he was called to give account for his wasting of the master's goods.

3. He was guilty and he was fired.

4. That over which he was in charge was taken away.

B. All stewards must sooner or later give account of their stewardship.

1. **Vs. 2** And he called _____, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

2. Put your name in the blank.

3. Are you guilty of wasting what the Lord has given you?

4. Yes, we all are! Some a lot, some less...but we are all guilty!

III. Judgment is coming, but it is not here yet.

A. Like the steward in our story, we too are guilty of wasting or master's goods... what should we do?

1. Do we go out and make our friendships in the world so that when God's blessings are taken away over our unfaithfulness we have somewhere to go?

2. That is perhaps not the best choice.

3. **James 4:4** *Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

4. The steward was commended for his making friends of the world so that as least he would have someplace to go...but he was still fired.

5. Do you think life was better or worse after he was fired and he is now living with his new friends in the world?

B. Maybe, since we have not yet been called to account, we ought rather to repent of our unfaithful stewardship and start faithfully using what God has given us for His glory, not just our desires.

1. The lesson here is that if you don't intend to be faithful in using that with which you have been entrusted for the Lord...

2. Then you definitely ought to make lots of friends in the world...enemies of God or not; because that is the only place you will have to go.

Conclusion:

That over which the steward in our story was in charge was taken away.

Which area of what God has given you will you not miss if He should choose to take it away?

We know the Lord gives and the Lord takes away.

Job 1:20-21

20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,

21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.

Why should any of us get to keep any of the blessings of God; time, talent, treasure... opportunity after opportunity...if we are not willing to use a significant portion for the Lord and His glory?

It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful.

Jesus was...He died and was buried and rose again to save you.

He bought you with His own blood.

I could stand here and talk about all the blessings that will be yours if you serve faithfully and give generously and use all you have for the Lord...maybe even get you pretty excited about it.

But frankly, the good stewards are already motivated.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.