

What Everyone Has Been Given In Stewardship

To become faithful stewards we must establish His ownership

- and gladly work to bring about His purposes
- Then we have the quiet assurance of hearing that wonderful declaration from Him
Well, done... good and faithful servant.

God's Principle of Essential Life Reward

The scripture today from Matthew 20 holds some interesting principles of God's provision..
We need to guide our view of stewardship in serving others for Christ

- by these same even handed principles of God
- and not by the "conventional wisdom"

Those who had worked only 1 hour received the same as those who had worked 12 hrs
Both received the same "reward"

While it *might not appear "fair"* it was honorable for the owner *in his benevolence* to offer from his wealth whatever he wished to those who chose to work
Whether a shorter or longer time.

Where was the reward?

Those that worked the longer time had the *enduring assurance of reward at the end of the day.*

Those who entered the work at the end of their day could rejoice in *an adequate reward at the end of the day to meet their need.*

Both had entered service to the same master at different times, but with no less than an adequate reward for their own and their family's needs.

The first were found by the master early in the day and set to work, the last were found later in the day and set to work.

Let me point out to you one thing - these all showed up looking for a working "purpose and provision for the day", and the master employed those ready to be workers..

In *God's provision for redeeming all mankind* who are willing to be redeemed.....:

It's not **when** you come to Christ and become a child and a servant (just like Christ was willing to be ... Matthew 20:24-28)

But that you **DO** come to Christ and become a child and servant of God

The same salvation and the same assurance of an eternity with God awaits for the faithful no matter how long you've been in Christ

Those who've walked long and faithfully have been confident in their long term service the "day's" outcome

Those who've only recently come to "work" for Christ, have a new found joy in their promised and newly assured eternity.

UNDERSTAND - A steward who chooses to be a steward and works to manage what God has given them to use -

- ♦ will be forever an heir and joint heir with Christ (Romans 8:17) -
- ♦ no matter how long he or she is a servant before God calls them home.

The results and the joy of long time service **DO bring acknowledgment**

- ♦ but it comes from God in the form of the richness of joy we have in serving
- ♦ and finding the hidden rewards in service to others for Him.
- ♦ It leads to an inner peace and satisfaction that cannot be found any other way

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- ♦ It leads to *knowing that your life has first given joy and then truly found a joy that cannot be found any other way.*

How does realizing the core of this principle keep us centered in Christ?

In being careful that we don't show partiality to those who are longtime in faith while giving lesser attention to those who are new in faith .

Matter of fact....the wealth of the kingdom needs to be focused on those are entering their Master's work "late in the day".

As new children require more attention and family resources than mature adults, so the new children of the kingdom will sometimes appear to get more of God's attention and resources than those who have been "long time".

When the **Prince of this World whispers** that thought in your ear, remember IF you have been long time in the Lord, you should have the highest level a desire and appreciation of being God's servant.... if a new servant needs more attention, realize that at one time older servants gave you the same attention to bring you to your current servanthood to Christ.

Remember - **Christ did not come to be served, but to serve**

If that's the work of the Master - isn't that the work of the steward?

As Jesus declared to his folks,I must be about my Father's business

The Prince of the World's business is

"How much can I get from God for me?"

The Son of Man's business is

"How can I use what God's given me to expand His Kingship and Love to others?"

The Natural Man's focus is to "survive" and "arrive"

Aquiring as much as possible to eat, drink and be merry.

The Spiritual Man's focus is to "serve" and "ascend"

Investing in Kingdom work is more important that personal pleasure or comfort

Luke 12:14 - 21 (NIV) ¹⁴Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵**Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."** ¹⁶And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' ¹⁸"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" ²⁰"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹**"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."**

What Do you have to be a Steward **OVER**??

Everyone has three things - (In Greater or Less Quantity, but still we have them.)

Time -

Talent -

Treasure -

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How **many of these things** are you using as a steward for God's purposes in your life, and how much of these things that cross through your hands are you consuming just for yourself and your own purposes in life?

There shouldn't be a difference - if we are in Christ

But **very few people give God control and full authority** over all of their lives when they first come to Him

What does **God know that you are "holding out"** or "holding back" from Him?

Do you honestly think the God of Love will not care for you if you put him first?

Or do you know that some of the things that you are doing aren't pleasing to Him but you don't want to have Him change those things....because you like them more than Him?

Are you letting Him have voice in your choices and are you setting Him over your time?

Or do you let the "circumstances of life" control your service to Him?

Do you not think that the **Prince of this World can create "circumstances"?**

Don't you know **he will provide you with a WORLD of excuses** about why you can't more adequately and fully serve God "just yet"?

Remember, **our God didn't even spare His own Son** the suffering and separation in the Father's love and commitment to redeem us from Sin's death penalty.

God has forgiven what you haven't done for him with your time, talents, and your treasures **IN THE PAST.....the truth He wants to hear** from you today:

What will you do with what you have left.....from this day forward?

Will **He be first** in all things? Will He **get the first and the best** of what you have?

Or will He get the left overs of your life? Sadly many people are reluctant to even give the left overs.

All they have for God is vague promises and good intentions

God has **empowered you to live with authority over your time, talents, and treasures....**

But to whom have you given control. Have you given control to the Prince of this World? Have you thought to retain control only for yourself?

Have you joyfully let Him have His authority?

Everything you have came from His creation, you may have bartered or bought or labored to gain control... But from the creation it belonged to God and after your days are done it still will belong to God

Where is **your true treasure** to be found today and **who have you set as the owner?**

Matthew 6:19 - 21 (NIV) ¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also

As long as you have breath you have a decision to make

What will I do NOW for God

What will I do NOW for me

As Joshua challenged the people - choose this day whom you will serve.... If God is God...then serve Him..... But as for me and my house we will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:14-15)