

About the Stewardship of Money and Material Possessions

Stewardship of the time God has given us..... We serve him with the first and best of our time, and while never off duty....take care of our individual needs when we're done serving Him.

Servants of God, Bondservants....voluntary life servants to Christ....Slaves to serving Righteousness where before we were slaves to serving Sin.

Unlike earthly masters..... God doesn't neglect our needs when we put him first. When we honor him before ourselves, he provides for our real needs. But when we assure our own needs before we provide for God....we never have enough for ourself, and very little if any to give to God.

Stewardship of the Talent or Abilities God has given us

Who else should be honored by the skills and abilities He gave you?

Stewardship of the Treasures of this World God has allowed us to acquire

REMEMBER - Possessions and Treasures of Earth MAY HINDER acquiring Kingdom Treasures. Possessions and Treasures of earth are not in themselves evil.

But our coveteousness or lustful desires to have them for our pleasure or the very temporary praise and admiration of men can keep us from our Father and His Kingdom.

Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness with all your heart, mind and soul.... In other terms with all your time, talent and treasure..... And what you really need God will add to your life.

Why do we work? Because Adam made it necessary to work in the sweat of our brow. How do we work.... Diligently to honorably provide from the King's provisions what we need to meet our responsibilities for what we need from others in our daily lives. Whatever else that is not a life necessity, may well be a stumbling block to entering the Kingdom.

The Rich Young Ruler, The man with the barns.... Not looking for the good that he could do, but how he could live the "good life".

Before the law....the tithe (the tenth) was understood.

Abraham in reclaiming what was his and taking the spoils from those who had sought to do him wrong gave a 10th (a tithe) to Melchizadek of all the increase in his possessions taken from his enemies) Hebrews 7:1 - 10 , Gen 14:10

From Cain and Abel - the lesson of the best over giving God what a person can "spare" was established.

Why? Does God have first or a lessor priority in each of us.

What you do is a reflection of what you feel and believe.

How you do it is an act of establishing where you want God to be in your life,,, His place as ruler or servant to you.

Role of Earthly Possessions

1 John 3:17 (NIV) ¹⁷If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?

Luke 6:24 - 26 (NIV) ²⁴"But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh

now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.

Now before someone thinks that I'm suggesting the poverty is more pious than possessions. I am neither suggesting that having or not having is more righteous before God. What I understand the scriptures to teach is that we are to be hard workers and diligent in all that we do....especially the work of the Kingdom. But our view of the importance of what we have or what we think we must have to be happy and complete before God can keep us from God himself and keep us from being faithful in the work of the Kingdom. When we view that we need something of this earth to be able to do what God has called us to do, we are not seeing ourself enabled and adequately equipped by God.

A Good Steward's Attitudes Towards Worldly Possessions

Luke 12:14 - 21 (NIV) ... "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."

Matthew 19:21 (NIV) ²¹Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

Acts 4:32(NIV) ³²All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

Ecclesiastes 5:10 - 11 (NIV) ¹⁰Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. ¹¹As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?

A Good Steward's Management of Material Things for the Lord

Luke 19:12 - 24 (NIV) ¹²He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. ¹³So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas.£ 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' ¹⁴"But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' ¹⁵"He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. ¹⁶"The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' ¹⁷"Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' ¹⁸"The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' ¹⁹"His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.' ²⁰"Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in

a piece of cloth. ²¹I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.’ ²²“His master replied, ‘I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow?’ ²³Why then didn’t you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?’ ²⁴“Then he said to those standing by, ‘Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.’

What do you think? Is it too much for Jesus to ask for you to give your all to him?

Good Stewards live a life of not offering a portion, but giving all for Christ

Matthew 23:23 - 24 (NIV) ²³“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.

Good Stewards Don’t seek Personal Praise or Personal Gain for their service

Matthew 6:1 - 4 (NIV) ¹“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Luke 6:32 - 36 (NIV) ³²“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ do that. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even ‘sinners’ lend to ‘sinners,’ expecting to be repaid in full. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 18:9 - 14 (NIV) ⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ ¹⁴“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Remember it is not what you have that impresses God.... Its what you've done and who you've served with what you've temporarily acquired responsibility for using for God.

Matthew 10:41 - 42 (NIV) ⁴¹Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴²And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

A certain business manager working for a millionaire business tycoon was given complete control over one of the many companies that the New York city man owns. He went to work his first day, and looked at his office and found it very austere. He said to himself. I can't be productive in this environment, it will stifle my creative abilities. So he called for some of the employees and told them. Look don't worry about your job responsibilities. Fix this office up so it is fit for a manager in my position. Then as he stood at the window and looked out. He thought.... I am not representing my employer properly, I need to get a better car befitting my important position. So he called for the salesman of a luxury car dealership to meet with him and provide him with a vehicle befitting his position. Those who needed instructions came to the door of his office, but he didn't have time to talk to them about decisions that needed to be made about their work. He said.... Look I have to represent my employer well, and I don't have time for those little details. You decide and whatever you decide will be fine. Then he noticed that there were no amenities for those who might come to the business to see what they were doing. So he took some more employees from their work and had them set up a kitchen and prepare fine foods for any guests that might come. Then he called for the newspapers to write a story about what an amazing job of leadership for his employer that he had been doing. One of the men came to report that several of the pieces of equipment were no longer working, but the manager said....look I can't spare anything for such petty things, I need to provide a good public image for our employer, and please those who come to view our company. You'll just have to continue work without those things....because I can't afford to replace them. How long will that man be allowed to manage that business for his employer? Why do you think that God will continue to offer you the opportunity to serve him, if you put yourself and your imagined work of the "needs of the Lord" before the real work of the kingdom?