

Stewardship

What is a steward?

- a person who manages another's property or financial affairs
- One who administers anything as the agent of another or others usually for a period of time.

Greek word means manager or overseer.

Stewardship was from the beginning

- (Gen 1:28) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- (Gen 2:15) Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.
- (Gen 2:19-20) Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.

Basic things we should know in order to be a good steward:

- 1) Who is the owner?
- 2) How long is the owner placing things under your stewardship?
- 3) What is the owner asking you to be a steward over?
- 4) What is the owner's expectation for how you should care for what you have been placed a steward over.

Who is the owner?

- **GOD is the owner.**
- "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." (Revelation 22:13)
- "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."
- (Psalm 24:1)
- "To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it." (Deuteronomy 10:14)
- "The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants." (Leviticus 25:23)
- "Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me." (Job 41:11)
- (1Co 4:7) For who makes you differ *from another*? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive *it*, why do you boast as if you had not received *it*?

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MONEY

- How does God expect us to use his money?
- Luke 16:1-14
- John 6:10-13
- 1Timothy 5:8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

DEBT

- (Matthew 5:38-42) "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH. But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have *your* cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.

DEBT

- (Psalms 37:21) The wicked borrows and does not repay, But the righteous shows mercy and gives.
- (Ecc 5:4-5) When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For *He has* no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed— Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.
- (Proverbs 22:7) The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower *is* servant to the lender.

TIME

- (Colossians 4:5) Walk in wisdom toward those *who are outside*, redeeming the time.
- (Ephesians 5:15-17) See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.

Redeeming the Time

- Thayer defines it as follows: “to buy up for oneself, for one’s use to make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good, so that zeal and well doing are as it were the purchase money by which we make time our own.”

Redeeming the Time

- With all possible care redeeming the time - Saving all you can for the best purposes; buying every possible moment out of the hands of sin and Satan; out of the hands of sloth, ease, pleasure, worldly business; the more diligently, because the present are evil days, days of the grossest ignorance, immorality, and profaneness.

TIME

- (Psalms 39:4-6) "LORD, make me to know my end, And what *is* the measure of my days, *That* I may know how frail I *am*. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my age *is* as nothing before You; Certainly every man at his best state *is* but vapor. Selah. Surely every man walks about like a shadow; Surely they busy themselves in vain; He heaps up *riches*, And does not know who will gather them.

TIME

- (Psalms 90:12) So teach *us* to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom
- Matthew 25:14-30

YOUR BODY

- (1Timothy 4:8) For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come.
- (1Corinthians 6:19-20) Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

CHILDREN

- (Ephesians 6:4) And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
- (Proverbs 22:6) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.

CHILDREN

- (1 Timothy 3:4-12) one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil. Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise, their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

CHILDREN AND WIFE

- (Colossians 3:18-21) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.
- Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

WIFE

- (Titus 2:3-5) the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.

WIFE

- (Ephesians 5:22-28) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- (Ephesians 4:7-12) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVITY CAPTIVE, AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." (Now this, "HE ASCENDED"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- (1 Peter 4:1-10) Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. For we *have spent* enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with *them* in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of *you*. They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers. And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "LOVE WILL COVER A MULTITUDE OF SINS." *Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.*
- **As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**

Luke 12:42-48