

Stewardship

Scripture Reading:
Luke 16:1-13

What is a "Steward"?

From the Greek word "oikonomos"

- "the manager of a household or of household affairs; especially a steward, manager, superintendent" (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

It's someone entrusted with caring for a superior's goods.

What is a "Steward"?

In the Old Testament a steward was over an entire household. He was responsible for managing the householder's material goods.

- **Joseph** was both steward in Pharaoh's house ([Gen. 41:39](#)) and he himself had a steward who served under him ([Gen 43:19](#)).

What is a "Steward"?

"In the New Testament the word steward refers to a guardian or curator ([Matt 20:8](#); [Gal 4:2](#)) in addition to its Old Testament meaning as a manager or superintendent of a household ([Luke 8:2-3](#); [1 Cor 4:1-2](#))"

(Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

What are we stewards of?

1. **Our blessings** - [Matt. 25:14ff](#) and the parable of the talents asks the question: what have we done with what God has blessed us with?
2. **Our time** - [Eph. 5:16](#), we're to make the "*most of our time*" and our opportunities (redeem the time) [Col. 4:5](#).

What are we stewards of?

3. **God's creation** - not for us to abuse nor to worship ([Gen. 1:28, 2:15](#); [Rom. 1:25](#)). This is our Father's world!
4. **Our bodies** - our bodies are not to do with as we please! Our bodies are from God - we are not our own. [1 Cor. 6:19](#).

What are we stewards of?

5. Our lives - our very being - **Eccles. 12:7**, one day our spirit will return to Him who gave it.
6. Our children - they also are a "*gift (heritage) of the Lord*" (**Ps. 127:3**), who has placed them in our care to "*bring them up*" (**Eph. 6:4**).

What are we stewards of?

7. God's word - God has put His word in our care. **1 Cor. 4:1-2; 1 Peter 4:10**
8. The Lord's church - Jesus purchased it with His blood - it belongs to Him! **Acts 20:28; Col. 1:24-25**.

7 Key Principles of Stewardship

The common characteristics of our stewardship in all it's forms!

#1-It's Universal

- ◊ Blessings We can't say, "It's not my job!"
- ◊ Time We are all created beings...Genesis ch. 1 & 2
- ◊ Creation
- ◊ Bodies He is "*the Maker of all things*" - **Isaiah 44:24; John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17**;
- ◊ Children
- ◊ Life We have all been blessed with a stewardship from God.
- ◊ God's word
- ◊ Church

#1- It's Universal

- ◊ Blessings Application of the potter - clay relationship. **Isaiah 64:8; Psalms 119:73; 100:3-4; Acts 17:23-31**
- ◊ Time We are not "*our own*" (**1 Cor. 6:19-20**).
- ◊ Creation Applies to ALL that God has put in our charge. **Matt. 25:14ff**
- ◊ Bodies
- ◊ Children
- ◊ Life
- ◊ God's word
- ◊ Church

#2-Submission

- ◊ Blessings "*Submit therefore to God*" (**James 4:7; cf., 1 Peter 5:6**).
- ◊ Time Parable of the wicked vine-growers (**Matt. 21:33ff**)
- ◊ Creation Will the clay rebel against the potter? **Isaiah 29:15-16**,
- ◊ Bodies Will we yield to the potter & make ourselves "*useful to the Master*"? (**2 Tim 2:19-21**).
- ◊ Children
- ◊ Life
- ◊ God's word
- ◊ Church

#3 - Trust

◊ Blessings
◊ Time
◊ Creation
◊ Bodies
◊ Children
◊ Life
◊ God's word
◊ Church

Our Master is looking for His stewards to be trustworthy and faithful.

God has "***entrusted his possessions***" to us. **Matt. 25:14**,

"***it is required of stewards*** that one be found ***trustworthy...***" **1 Cor. 4:1-2**, cf., **Matt. 25:21**, "***well done good and faithful slave***" (vs. 21)

#3 - Trust

◊ Blessings
◊ Time
◊ Creation
◊ Bodies
◊ Children
◊ Life
◊ God's word
◊ Church

Are we guilty of prodigality? **Luke 16:1ff**

Will we "***guard***" that which has been entrusted to us? **1 Tim. 6:20**

Can God use us in His service because He's "***counted me faithful***"? **1 Tim. 1:12**

Who can God count on? **Luke 12:42**

#4 - Thankfulness

◊ Blessings
◊ Time
◊ Creation
◊ Bodies
◊ Children
◊ Life
◊ God's word
◊ Church

Do we appreciate what God has put in our care?

"***I thank Christ Jesus our Lord... because He considered me faithful, putting me into service***" (**1 Tim. 1:12**).

Can we articulate the "***great things***" God has done for us? (**Luke 8:39**)

#5 - Diligence

◊ Blessings
◊ Time
◊ Creation
◊ Bodies
◊ Children
◊ Life
◊ God's word
◊ Church

We can be lost for a lack of diligence. **Matt. 25:26**, "***wicked and lazy slave***"

It takes work to be a good steward.

• Diligence to present ourselves approved unto God (**2 Tim. 2:15**)

• Diligence to be found by Him "***in peace, spotless and blameless***" **2 Peter 3:14**,

• **Titus 2:14**, zealous for good deeds.

#6 - Courage

◊ Blessings
◊ Time
◊ Creation
◊ Bodies
◊ Children
◊ Life
◊ God's word
◊ Church

We can't be a steward overcome by fear - **Matt. 25:25**, "***...I was afraid...***"

We can't be afraid to act within the authority of what the Master has specified.

Deut. 31:6, "***Be strong & courageous...***" Cf., **Deut. 20:1-4**; **Heb. 13:6**.

Even Paul... **Acts 18:9**

#6 - Courage

◊ Blessings
◊ Time
◊ Creation
◊ Bodies
◊ Children
◊ Life
◊ God's word
◊ Church

When it's time to fight our spiritual battles, we can't afford to be one of the fainthearted. **Deut. 20:3-8**, (cf., **Judges 7:3**)

"Afraid" - "Phobeo" - to be alarmed or frightened - our English word "phobia".

God has not given us a spirit of timidity but of power, love & discipline (**2 Tim. 1:7**)!

#7 - Accountability



- ◊ Blessings
- ◊ Time
- ◊ Creation
- ◊ Bodies
- ◊ Children
- ◊ Life
- ◊ God's word
- ◊ Church

Accounts will be settled with Him who has given us this stewardship:

- **Matt. 25:19**, "...the Master... came and settled accounts with them"
- **Luke 16:2**, "...give an account of your stewardship..."

This accounting will take place "*before the judgment seat of Christ*", (**2 Cor. 5:6-10**)

#7 - Accountability



- ◊ Blessings
- ◊ Time
- ◊ Creation
- ◊ Bodies
- ◊ Children
- ◊ Life
- ◊ God's word
- ◊ Church

Will we be found to be a "good" steward? **1 Peter 4:10-11**, "As each one has received a special gift, *employ it* in serving one another, *as good stewards* of the manifold grace of God."

The accounting for our stewardship will be an individual accounting: **Rom. 14:12**,

Accountability



- ◊ Blessings
- ◊ Time
- ◊ Creation
- ◊ Bodies
- ◊ Children
- ◊ Life
- ◊ God's word
- ◊ Church

What do we do if we wish to be forgiven for our lack of stewardship?

How can we ensure that the settling of our accounts will be something to be longed for?

Repent of our sins and become obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ.