

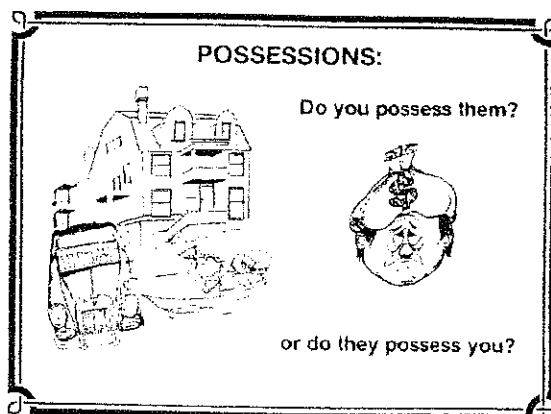
Discipleship Training Program

Christianity 101 – Lesson Eight

Stewardship

Memory Text

I Corinthians 4:2 *“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”*



Stewardship is the practice of systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions based on the conviction that these are a trust from God to be used in His service for the benefit of His Kingdom. It is a divine-human partnership, with God the senior partner. It is a way of living; the recognition of God's ownership of one's person, one's powers, and one's possessions and the faithful use of these for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in this world.

What Is The Difference In Ownership & Stewardship

- A. **Ownership** – God is the owner of all things
- Genesis 14:19,22** *“¹⁹And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: ²²And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,”*
 - Psalms 24:1**; *“¹The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”*
 - Psalms 50:1-12** *“¹The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. ²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. ³Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. ⁴He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. ⁵Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. ⁶And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah ⁷Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God. ⁸I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me. ⁹I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds.*

¹⁰For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. ¹¹I know all the fowls of the mountains: and the wild beasts of the field are mine. ¹²If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

d. **Psalms 89:11** "The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them."

e. **Haggai 2:8** "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts."

B. **Stewardship** – We are not owners; we are but stewards, responsible and accountable.

a. **Matthew 25:14-30** ¹⁴For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. ¹⁵And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. ¹⁶Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. ¹⁷And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. ¹⁸But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. ²⁰And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. ²¹His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²²He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. ²³His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. ²⁴Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: ²⁵And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. ²⁶His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: ²⁷Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. ²⁸Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. ²⁹For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. ³⁰And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

b. **Luke 19:11-26** ¹¹And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. ¹²He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. ¹³And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. ¹⁴But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. ¹⁵And 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. ¹⁶Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. ¹⁷And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. ¹⁸And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. ¹⁹And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. ²⁰And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: ²¹For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. ²²And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: ²³Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? ²⁴And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. ²⁵(And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) ²⁶For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

God	Man
The Giver	The Receiver
Possessor	Steward
The Owner	Responsible
	Accountable
	May Use, Abuse and Lose
The Rewarder	The Rewarded Faithful

What Are Some Owner-Steward Relationships?

- A. **Life** – What you have received
- Genesis 1:27-28** ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. ²⁸And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”
 - Acts 17:25** “Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;”
 - James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
- B. **Time** – What you are allotted
- Proverbs 24:30-34** ³⁰I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; ³¹And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. ³²Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. ³³Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: ³⁴So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.”

- b. **Psalm 90:12** *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."*
- C. **Talents** – What you have been given to use
a. **Matthew 25:14-30**
- D. **Possessions** – What is entrusted to you
a. **Matthew 6:19-2** *"¹⁹Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*
b. **Colossians 3:1-2** *"¹If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."*
- E. **Finances** – What you labor for
a. **I Corinthians 16:1-2** *"¹Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. ²Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."*

What Are The Requirements Of A Good Steward?

- A. **Faithfulness**
a. **I Corinthians 4:1-2** *"¹Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*
- B. **Teachable**
a. **Psalm 27:11** *"Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies."*
- C. **Desire** To Minister (serve) people
a. **Romans 12:10-13** *"¹⁰Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ¹¹Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; ¹²Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; ¹³Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality."*
- D. Servant's **heart**
a. **Galatians 5:13** *"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."*
- E. Willingness to **give**
a. **Luke 6:38** *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."*

Are Stewards Accountable?

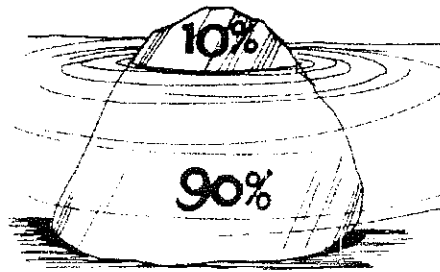
Yes. See the parable of the unjust steward. Luke 16:1-13

- A. What does being a steward mean?
B. What was the steward accused of in verse 1?
C. Do we have to give an account of our stewardship? When? Vs 2
D. Is it possible to forfeit our stewardship? Now or in Eternity? Vs 3

- E. What did the unjust steward do with two of his lord's debtors? Vs 5-6
- F. Why did the lord commend the unjust steward for the wrong action he took? Vs 8
- G. What is (1) the unrighteous mammon? Vs 9, 11, 13; (2) the true riches?
- H. What is the key word (used 4 times) in verses 9-13? Are we such?
- I. How can we make to ourselves "friends of the unrighteous mammon?" Vs 9

Proverbs 15:16 "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure with trouble."

GIVE GOD
THE TIP OF
THE ICEBURG!



How Can I Transfer Ownership To God?

Use the words below to complete each statement.

1. I will base every decision as to how my money will be earned or used on **scriptural principles**
2. I must view myself as a **steward** rather than an owner.
3. God has the right to **take or leave** my possessions as He sees fit.
4. By giving God the ownership of my money, I allow Him to work **supernaturally** through it.
5. God will require me to obey His **commands** once I transfer ownership of my money to Him.
6. One day I must give **an account** as to how I managed all the funds that God entrusted to me.
7. God usually asks first for the object of my most **cherished** affection.
8. Giving God the rightful ownership of my possessions means that I **die emotionally** to them.
9. The actions of **Abraham** in Scripture provide an excellent example to me of how I can transfer ownership of my possessions to God.
10. I have purposed this date to serve **the Lord** rather than money.

A. Commands
B. Supernaturally
C. The Lord
D. Cherished

E. Scriptural principles
F. Abraham
G. Steward

H. An account
I. Take or leave
J. Die emotionally