

THE STORY OF STEWARDSHIP

Address the Mess: Part One

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"I cling to your commands and follow them as closely as I can. Lord, don't let me make a mess of things." (Psalm 119:31, The Living Bible)

1. God OWNS everything.

"The earth and everything it contains are the LORD's. The world and all who live in it are his." (Psalm 24:1, GW)

"O LORD God of Heaven's Armies! Where is there anyone as mighty as you, O LORD? ...The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours; everything in the world is yours—you created it all." (Psalm 89:8, 11, NLT)

2. God made MANAGERS.

- ANGELS were the first created stewards of God.

"Yes, praise the LORD, you armies of angels who serve him and do his will!" (Psalm 103:21, NLT)

- SATAN rebelled against God and was thrown down to pre-Edenic earth, along with ⅓ of the angels (aka demons). Pre-incarnate Jesus witnessed this insurrection and expulsion.

"How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, [Lucifer]! You have been thrown down to the earth..." (Isaiah 14:12, NLT)

See also Revelation 12:3-4, 7-10; Luke 10:18

- In Genesis, God brought FUNCTION AND PURPOSE to the formerly chaotic and empty.

"When God began creating the heavens and the earth, the earth was a shapeless, chaotic mass..." (Genesis 1:1-2, The Living Bible)

- The climax of God's creation was HUMAN BEINGS.

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “**Be fruitful and increase** in number; fill the earth and **subdue** it. **Rule over** the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, **and it was very good**. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 1:27–31 (NIV)

- Stewardship is our divine assignment that fulfills our **PURPOSE AND POTENTIAL**.

*“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? You have made them a little **lower than the angels** and **crowned them with glory and honor**. You gave them charge of everything you made, **putting all things under their authority**” (Psalm 8:3–6, NIV/NLT)*

3. God delegated **AUTHORITY** and **RESPONSIBILITY** to His managers.

*“God blessed them and said to them, “Be **FRUITFUL** and **INCREASE** in number; **FILL** the earth and **SUBDUE** it. **RULE** over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”” (Genesis 1:28, NIV)*

*“And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **TEND** and **GUARD** and **KEEP** it.” (Genesis 2:15, AMP)*

4. When human beings sinned, they lost their **AUTHORITY**, but not their responsibility.

*“Then the devil took him up and revealed to him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. “I will give you the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them,” the devil said, “because **they are mine to give** to anyone I please. I will give it all to you if you will worship me.” (Luke 4:5–7, NLT)*

*“Satan, who is the **god of this world**, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe...” (2 Corinthians 4:4, NLT)*

*“So then, **each of us will give an account** of ourselves to God.” (Romans 14:12, NIV)*

“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money.” (Matthew 25:19, NLT)

5. What we steward today:

Matthew 25

- The foolish bridesmaids wasted their **TIME**.

“So stay awake and be prepared, for you do not know the date or moment of my return.” (Matthew 25:13, The Living Bible)

- The foolish servant wasted his **MONEY**.

“For the man who uses well what he is given shall be given more, and he shall have abundance. But from the man who is unfaithful, even what little responsibility he has shall be taken from him.” (Matthew 25:29, The Living Bible)

- The foolish “goats” wasted their **MINISTRY**.

“The king will say to them, “Whenever you failed to help any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you failed to do it for me.” Then Jesus said, “Those people will be punished forever. But the ones who pleased God will have eternal life.”” (Matthew 25:45–46, CEV)

6. What I must do in order to become a better steward: ABCs!

- **ADMIT** you can do better.

*“A man who **refuses to admit** his mistakes can never be successful.” (Proverbs 28:13a, The Living Bible)*

- **BEGIN** new habits.

*“...you must give up your old way of life with all its **bad habits**.” (Ephesians 4:22, CEV)*

- **COMMIT** your stewardship to God.

*“Commit everything you do to the Lord. **Trust him** to help you do it, and he will.” (Psalm 37:5, The Living Bible)*

ACTION STEPS

Financial Peace University
SG Study: The Treasure Principle
3rd Base