

Biblical Stewardship - Week 1

4-week Outline

- Week 1 - Introduction
- Week 2 - Part 1: A Call to Stewardship - Charge, Content
- Week 3 - Part 1: A Call to Stewardship - Compass, Character, Compensation
- Week 4 - Part 2: The Practice of Stewardship - Time, Talent, Treasure
- Primary Resource: *Well Done: A Strategy for Life Stewardship* (Reagan Rose, 2023)

What is Biblical stewardship?

- What words or concepts come to mind when you think of stewardship?
 - trust, ownership, responsibility, gifting, calling, skills, experiences, watchman, overseer, faithful, faith-filled, diligent, investor, mindset
- Common Concepts
 - A steward is one who manages or administers the estate, affairs, or goods of another.
 - Biblical stewardship is often incorrectly reduced to merely tithing or managing money, whereas it actually encompasses managing all of life—time, talents, health, and resources - for God's glory. It is not just about giving money away, but how we use and steward everything we are entrusted with.
 - Our central scripture text will be the **Parable of the Talents, Matthew 25:14-30**.
- From Church Leaders
 - Randy Alcorn summed up the scope of stewardship best when he wrote, "Stewardship is not a subcategory of the Christian life. Stewardship **IS** the Christian life."
 - RC Sproul described the word translated "stewardship" in the Bible as the Greek word *oikonomia*, from which we get our word economy. It is two distinct words joined together to create a new word: *oikos* (OY-kohs), which comes from the Greek word for house, and *nomos* (NOH-moss), the Greek word for law. The word that is translated "stewardship" literally means "house law" or "house rule."
- From Scripture
 - (1) God created and owns everything - Genesis 1
 - (2) God created man in his image to "work & keep" creation
 - Gen 1:26-30, 2:15
 - (3) God is redeeming His church & equipping them to glorify Him through
 - (a) a common 'love thy neighbor' mission and
 - (b) individual giftings that build God's kingdom & benefit the world
 - Is 43:1, Eph 5:25-27, Titus 2:14, Eph 4:11-12, Heb 13:20-21
 - Lev 19:18, Mt 22:37-39
 - 1 Pe 4:10-11, Ro 12:6-8
 - (4) God expects faithful stewardship and promises to reward faithfulness
 - Mt 25:21, 1 Co 4:1-5
- Formal Definitions
 - A longer definition: Biblical stewardship is the faithful management of all that God has entrusted to us - our lives, relationships, abilities, resources, opportunities, and influence - for His glory and the good of others.
 - Robie's short definition: God-given responsibility with accountability.
 - **Our working definition for this study:**
What you do with the life God has entrusted to you.

Biblical Stewardship Principles

1. Ownership - God owns everything, including you.
Gen 1, Ps 24:1, 1 Co 6:19-20
2. Purpose - We exist to glorify God by knowing him, enjoying him & bearing fruit.
Ps 63:1-8, Phil 3:7-11, Ps 37:4, Jn 15:4-11, Mt 5:13-16, Eph 2:8-9
3. Responsibility - God expects us to manage what we've been entrusted, but promises to empower our work. Parables: Ten Virgins & Talents in Mt 25, Ten Minas in Luke 19, 1 Co 3:5-9, Phil 2:12-18, 2 Tim 3:16-17, 1 Pe 4:7-11
4. Accountability - God says he will hold us accountable for stewardship.
Parables: Ten Virgins & Talents in Mt 25, Ten Minas in Luke 19
Ro 14:10-12, 2 Co 5:6-10, Heb 4:11-13
5. Reward - God promises to reward those who steward well, and it isn't sinful to desire this reward.
Parables: Ten Virgins & Talents in Mt 25, Ten Minas in Luke 19, Col 3:23-24, 1 Co 3:10-15, Gal 6:7-10

Who are some Biblical examples of good (and bad) stewardship?

- Old Testament
 - Good: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Daniel, others
 - Bad: Adam, Eve, Cain, Joseph's brothers, David, Jonah
 - What about Solomon?
- New Testament
 - Jesus Feeds the Crowds (5000: Mark 6:30-44; 4000: Mark 8:1-10), Pray before & after ministry: Mark 1:35-39; Luke 5:12-16, Mt 14:23, Pray before choosing disciples: Luke 6:12-16, Pray for strength to endure the cross: Mt 26:36-44
 - Parables of the Ten Virgins (Mt 25:1-13), Talents (Mt 25:14-30), Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21), Faithful & Wise Manager (Luke 12:35-48), Dishonest Manager (Luke 16:1-13)
 - Judas betrayed Jesus for money (Luke 22:3-5)
 - Early Church (Acts 2:42-47) and Apostles (1 Cor 4:1-7)

What are some historical events that shaped our perspective on stewardship?

Era	Stewardship Emphasis
Creation / Cultural Mandate	Dominion and responsibility
Israel's Covenant Life & Law	Covenant management of life and resources
Life & Teachings of Jesus	Faithfulness and kingdom investment
Early Church	Generosity and community
Monasticism	Simplicity and spiritual discipline
Reformation	Vocation and everyday faithfulness
Protestant Work Ethic	Productivity and diligence
Industrial Revolution	Social responsibility
Modern Stewardship Movement	Time, talent, treasure
Whole-Life Discipleship	Stewardship of every life domain

The Six Domains of Stewardship

This isn't a biblical list, but a practical one, taken from several different sources and life experiences. We will refer to these periodically throughout the study.

1. Spiritual
2. Physical
3. Relational
4. Financial
5. Vocational
6. Societal

Why is it important? 3 main reasons...

- God's glory
 - The ultimate goal, or "the chief end of man," as the Westminster Shorter Catechism puts it, is to "glorify God and enjoy Him forever."
 - You were created to glorify God (Isa. 43:7). And if you are in Christ, you were saved to glorify God (Rom. 15:7), given work to glorify God (Eph. 2:10), and you will someday be resurrected unto eternal life to glorify God forever (Rev. 5:13). God's glory is our goal, our reason for existing.
 - It's why we're here. We were made to be productive as we find our purpose in glorifying God in our labors.
- It affects how we live presently
 - A mindset of Biblical stewardship transforms how we view life, leading both to personal joy and the flourishing of others.
 - There are guardrails in scripture that help us stay on the right path.
 - The "narrow road" of the Christian life - heed Solomon's wisdom...Ecc 3:12-13, Prov 21:25-26, Ecc 2:11, Prov 11:25, Is 58:10-11, Acts 20:35, 2 Co 9:11-12, Mt 25:21
- Our eternity is being shaped
 - The Bible teaches that while salvation is by grace, what believers do on earth has real, lasting consequences for eternity - especially in terms of reward, responsibility, and inheritance.
 - Mt 6:19-21, Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:21), Parable of the Minas (Luke 19:16-19), 1 Co 3:12-15, Gal 6:7-9, 1 Tim 6:17-19

Alternative Reading, from *Redeeming Productivity* (Reagan Rose, 2022)

"How we glorify God"

Traditionally, theologians have spoken about God's glory in two categories: His intrinsic glory and His ascribed glory. God's intrinsic glory is that which He has in Himself. It is not an attribute of God but rather the visible manifestation of all He is. Biblical synonyms for glory are usually words having to do with light. They include terms like splendor or brightness. We don't call glory an attribute of God because it was often seen by the saints of old, whereas God Himself is invisible (1 Tim. 1:17).

Here's a helpful way to think about it: As the sun has light, so God has glory. The light of the sun is not the sun, yet it would not be the sun if it did not give forth light. In the same way, the glory of God is not God, yet He would not be God if He did not manifest glory. As Thomas Watson put it, "Glory is the sparkling of Deity."

But when we speak of humans glorifying God, we are not suggesting that we are somehow adding to that intrinsic glory. That would be blasphemous. God's glory cannot receive any addition because it is perfect,

and it cannot diminish because God is unchanging and will not allow His glory to be given away (Isa. 48:11). So, if I can't add to God's glory, in what sense can I, a sinful creature, be said to "glorify God?" This brings us to God's ascribed glory.

First Chronicles 16:28–29 declares:

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength! Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him! Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.

When we talk about glorifying God, what we really mean is ascribing glory to Him. Glorifying God is regarding Him as worthy of praise. That 1 Chronicles passage refers to glorifying God in the context of the invitation to praise and worship Him. And glorifying God with our words is a big part of how we ascribe Him glory.

But we are also to glorify Him with what we do: "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). To glorify God means that through word, deed, and attitude, both publicly and privately, I magnify God as worthy of praise, adoration, and service. Again, Watson captures it well: "The glory we give God is nothing else but our lifting up his name in the world, and magnifying him in the eyes of others."

When we speak of ascribing glory to God, or glorifying God, we are just talking about pointing. My life, my work, and my thoughts are to be one giant arrow that reads "worthy" and points to God. If God is the sun and glory is His light, then we are the moon, reflecting God's glory for all to see. It is not our own glory but His that we show forth to the world. In fact, Jesus says something very similar to this in Matthew 5:16: "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." We shine with good works, not that we would be glorified, but that others, upon seeing our good works, would turn and praise the source of that light, the One who wrought those good works in us.

THE 6 DOMAINS OF BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

— Every area of life entrusted by God. Everything we do for His glory. —



Domains of Biblical “Whole-Life” Stewardship

Domain	Description	Verse 1	Verse 2	Verse 3
Spiritual	Renew minds & refresh spirits through worship, word, prayer and fellowship. Principle: God desires faithful devotion and spiritual maturity.	Jn 15:4-5 "Abide in me..."	1 Tim 4:7-8 "Train yourself for godliness..."	Mt 22:37 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..."
Physical	Steward bodies, health, energy, and rest as gifts from God. Principle: Our bodies belong to God and are to be used for His purposes.	1 Cor 6:19-20 "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit..."	Ro 12:1 "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice..."	Mk 6:31 "Come away by yourselves... and rest a while."
Relational	Cultivate & nurture relationships by loving, serving, encouraging & caring for others. Principle: God says to love our neighbors as an expression of our love for Him.	Lev 19:18 "Love your neighbor as yourself."	Jn 13:34-35 "Love one another as I have loved you."	Ro 12:10 "Outdo one another in showing honor."
Financial	Use money, possessions, and resources for God's glory and the good of others. Principle: God owns everything; we are managers of what He entrusts to us.	Ps 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it."	Mt 25:14-30 Parable of the Talents	1 Tim 6:17-19 "Be rich in good works, generous and ready to share."
Vocational	Engage in work that uses gifts, talents, and calling to serve God and others. Principle: Every legitimate vocation can glorify God.	Gen 2:15 "Work it and keep it."	Col 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord."	Eph 2:10 "Created in Christ Jesus for good works."
Societal	Steward influence in society through citizenship, community involvement, righteous justice, compassionate service, creation care, and seeking the common good. Principle: God's people are called to bless their communities and steward His creation.	Jer 29:7 "Seek the welfare of the city..."	Micah 6:8 "Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God."	Mt 5:13-16 "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world."

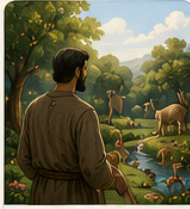
EXAMPLES OF GOOD (AND BAD) STEWARDSHIP

FAITHFUL OVER WHAT GOD ENTRUSTS TO US



EXAMPLES OF GOOD STEWARDSHIP

OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLES



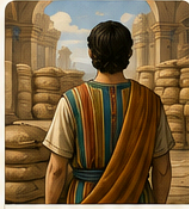
ADAM
Placed in the Garden to work it and keep it.
(Genesis 2:15)



NOAH
Built the ark and cared for his family and the animals.
(Genesis 6:22)



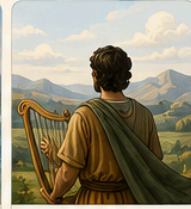
ABRAHAM
Trusted God and obediently stewarded God's promises.
(Genesis 12:1-4)



JOSEPH
Faithfully managed responsibilities and saved many lives.
(Genesis 41:39-41)

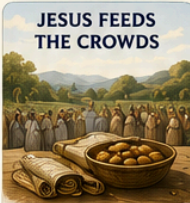


MOSES
Led God's people and stewarded God's law and presence.
(Exodus 18:21)



DAVID
A man after God's heart who stewarded his calling as king.
(1 Samuel 13:14)

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES



JESUS FEEDS THE CROWDS

Compassionately met people's needs with what was available.
(Mk 6:30-44; 8:1-10)



JESUS WITH HIS TIME

Intentional and focused on what the Father was doing.
(Mk 1:35-39)



JESUS PRAYED CONSISTENTLY

- Before ministry (Mk 1:35-39; Lk 5:12-16; Mt 14:23)
- Before choosing disciples (Lk 6:12-16)
- For strength to endure the cross (Mt 26:36-44)



PARABLES OF JESUS (TEACHINGS ON STEWARDSHIP)

Jesus taught how to be faithful managers of all God entrusts to us.
(See parables below)



EARLY CHURCH (Acts 2:42-47)

Devoted to God and to one another; shared what they had so no one had need.



PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

Be prepared and faithful—wisdom is stewarding the future.
(Mt 25:1-13)



PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Faithfully invest and multiply what God has entrusted.
(Mt 25:14-30)



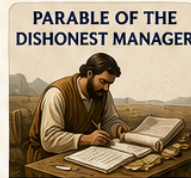
PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

Focusing only on self instead of God is poor stewardship.
(Lk 12:13-21)



PARABLE OF THE FAITHFUL & WISE MANAGER

Faithful and wise stewardship brings blessing and trust.
(Lk 12:35-48)



PARABLE OF THE DISHONEST MANAGER

Used resources wisely in the moment—urgency in stewarding opportunities.
(Lk 16:1-13)

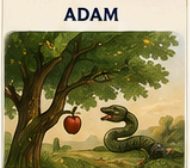


APOSTLES (1 Cor 4:1-7)

Stewards of God's mysteries; accountable to the Lord, not man.



EXAMPLES OF POOR STEWARDSHIP



ADAM

Disobeyed and brought sin and brokenness.
(Genesis 3:6)



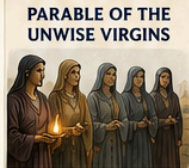
THE RICH FOOL

Stored up for himself but was not rich toward God.
(Luke 12:16-21)



PARABLE OF THE UNFAITHFUL SERVANT

Ignored his master's will and abused what was entrusted to him.
(Luke 12:45-46)



PARABLE OF THE UNWISE VIRGINS

Lack of preparation leads to being unready.
(Mt 25:1-13)



PARABLE OF THE LAZY SERVANT

Buried his talent instead of using it for his master's purposes.
(Mt 25:24-30)



JUDAS ISCARIOT

Betrayed Jesus for money—loved money more than his Lord.
(Lk 22:3-5)

THE HEART OF STEWARDSHIP



God owns everything. We are His stewards—called to be faithful with what He entrusts to us.

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”

1 Corinthians 4:2













REMEMBER

- ✓ Everything is a trust from God
- ✓ We will give an account
- ✓ Faithfulness matters most
- ✓ Do it all for His glory

THE HISTORICAL JOURNEY OF BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

God's heart. His resources. Our responsibility.

<p>1</p> <p>CREATION (BEGINNING)</p>  <p>Genesis 1-2</p> <p>God creates and entrusts the earth to humanity to work it, care for it, and reflect His image.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>ISRAEL'S COVENANT LIFE & THE LAW (c. 1400-1000 BC)</p>  <p>Deuteronomy 8:18</p> <p>God establishes principles for the faithful management of blessings for His glory and the good of others.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS (c. AD 30)</p>  <p>Matthew 25:21</p> <p>Jesus teaches that faithfulness with what we have been given matters more than the amount we have.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>THE EARLY CHURCH (Acts 2-4)</p>  <p>Acts 2:44-45</p> <p>Believers share generously, care for one another, and use their resources to advance the Kingdom.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>THE MONASTIC MOVEMENT (3rd-6th Centuries)</p>  <p>Psalm 46:10</p> <p>Monks model simplicity, discipline, and stewardship of time, prayer, and creation.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION (16th Century)</p>  <p>Colossians 3:23</p> <p>Every believer and every vocation matters. Work is a calling and a way to glorify God in daily life.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>THE PROTESTANT WORK ETHIC (17th-18th Centuries)</p>  <p>Proverbs 10:4</p> <p>Diligence, industry, and faithfulness become hallmarks of responsible stewardship.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (18th-19th Centuries)</p>  <p>Micah 6:8</p> <p>Christians respond to new challenges with generosity, justice, and responsible use of influence and wealth.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>THE MODERN STEWARDSHIP MOVEMENT (LATE 19th-20th CENTURIES)</p>  <p>1 Corinthians 4:2</p> <p>God owns everything. We are faithful managers of time, talents, treasures, and testimony.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>WHOLE-LIFE DISCIPLINESHIP (LATE 20th CENTURY-PRESENT)</p>  <p>Matthew 22:37-39</p> <p>Stewarding every area of life for God's glory and the flourishing of His Kingdom.</p>
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One Story. One Steward, One King.

Everything we have is a gift. Everything we are is entrusted.
Every era. Same God. Eternal purpose.



STAYING ON THE NARROW ROAD OF BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

— FAITHFUL WITH WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED —

DITCH ON THE LEFT

**LAZINESS
IDLENESS
SELFISHNESS**

PROVERBS 6:6-11

*Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways,
and be wise... She prepares her bread in
summer and gathers her food in harvest.
A little sleep, a little slumber, a little
folding of the hands to rest, and poverty
will come upon you like a robber...*

PROVERBS 12:24

*The hand of the diligent will rule,
while the slothful will be put
to forced labor.*

PROVERBS 21:25-26

*The desire of the sluggard kills him,
for his hands refuse to labor.
All day long he craves and craves,
but the righteous gives
and does not hold back.*

DITCH ON THE RIGHT

**VANITY
STRIVING AFTER WIND
LIFE ALL ABOUT OUR
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

ECCLESIASTES 2:11

*Then I considered all that my
hands had done and the toil
I had expended in doing it,
and behold, all was vanity
and a striving after wind,
and there was nothing
to be gained under the sun.*

ECCLESIASTES 5:10

*He who loves money will not be
satisfied with money, nor he who
loves wealth with his income;
this also is vanity.*


ECCLESIASTES 12:1

*Remember your Creator in the days
of your youth, before the evil days come
and the years draw near when you
will say, 'I have no pleasure in them.'*

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

 OWNERSHIP: GOD OWNS ALL

 MANAGEMENT: WE ARE STEWARDS

 PURPOSE: HIS GLORY AND
THE GOOD OF OTHERS

 GUIDE: HIS WORD AND HIS SPIRIT

"It is required of stewards that they be found faithful."

1 CORINTHIANS 4:2