STEWARDSHIP

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S BUSINESS

PART VII

Last Week….

ARE WE GIVING THE WAY GOD HAS INSTRUCTED US TO GIVE?

- *Give Ourselves First*
- *Give Cheerfully*
- *Give Sacrificially*
- *Give Initially*
- *Give Willingly*
- *Give Accordingly*
- *Give Expectantly*

Tonight…

*Usually, When We Discuss **Stewardship***

*We Focus On **Finances Only**….*

*But God **Monitors Faithfulness***

Key Verse?

Luke 16:10-12 (NLT)

10 "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones.
But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.
11 And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?
12 And if you are not faithful with other people's things,
why should you be trusted with things of your own?

Introduction

Over the past few weeks, we have talked about Why we give… How we give, What we give
And the Heart from which we give…
But tonight, I want to move the discussion BEYOND THE AMOUNT…

God is not just interested in the amount we give…
He is interested in THE FAITHFULNESS WE DEMONSTRATE…

Faithfulness positions us for…
1) Greater Responsibility
2) Greater Opportunities
3) Greater Kingdom Impact

In Luke 16, Jesus establishes a connection between stewardship, trustworthiness, and advancement

We have been talking about giving, but giving is only one part of stewardship
God is not simply looking for people WHO WILL GIVE HIM SOMETHING
He is looking for people HE CAN TRUST WITH SOMETHING

There is a difference between being willing to give something and being faithful enough to manage something
God connects advancement and increase to faithfulness with what has been entrusted

Faithfulness In The Small Things

Luke 16:10 (NLT)

10 "If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones.
But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.

Sometimes WE MINIMIZE our responsibilities because we consider them insignificant

Example…

"When I start making real money, I will become a better giver"

"When God blesses me with this new position, I will start being faithful with my tithes"

Jesus is teaching that THE SAME CHARACTER required to manage much
MUST BE FIRST DEMONSTRATED IN MANAGING LITTLE…

Having more doesn't make us more faithful…It simply gives us more to be faithful with…
Increase changes what you have, BUT it does not automatically change who you are!
The Amount can change, BUT the attitude toward giving will stay the same
Increase doesn't change your character; it confirms it.
Money, platform, and position don't make people; they reveal people at higher volume

Understanding this concept helps with our Prayer Life
We are asking for more…enlargement of territory
And God Is Saying, NO…. DEMONSTRATE FAITHFULNESS WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

Faithfulness In The Small Things

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But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities.

God Uses Smaller Responsibilities To Reveal and Develop
The Character Necessary For Greater Responsibilities

Biblical Example

1 Samuel 16:16-21 (NLT)

16 Let us find a good musician to play the harp whenever the tormenting spirit troubles you.
He will play soothing music, and you will soon be well again."
17 "All right," Saul said. "Find me someone who plays well, and bring him here."
18 One of the servants said to Saul, "One of Jesse's sons from Bethlehem is a talented harp player.
Not only that—he is a brave warrior, a man of war, and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the Lord is with him." 19 So Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, "Send me your son David, THE SHEPHERD."
21 So David went to Saul and began serving him. Saul loved David very much, and David became his armor bearer.

DON'T BECOME SO FOCUSED ON WHAT YOU WANT NEXT
THAT YOU NEGLECT WHAT YOU HAVE NOW…
BE FAITHFUL WITH WHAT YOU HAVE NOW!!!

AM I WAITING FOR MORE BEFORE I BECOME FAITHFUL??

Faithfulness With Worldly Substance

Luke 16:11 (NLT)

11 And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth,
who will TRUST YOU with the true riches of heaven?

Jesus makes the distinction between two types of riches
Worldly Wealth and True Riches

Worldly Wealth ~ money and material resources that belong to this temporary world
True Riches ~ Spiritual treasures, eternal rewards, kingdom responsibilities, and
Blessings that extend beyond material possessions

God monitors how we handle temporary possessions to reveal whether we can be trusted with eternal valuables
We can be rich in what the world values and poor in what God values…
In the kingdom's economy, ALL MONEY is the small thing….

1 Kings 3:5, 11-13 (NLT)

5 That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said,
"What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"
11 So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— 12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! 13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for..
RICHES AND FAME!

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The world treats money as life's main priority; THE KINGDOM treats it as the qualifiers For Next Level Blessings

2 Chronicles 25:5-9 (NLT)

5 Then Amaziah organized the army, assigning generals and captains for all Judah and Benjamin.
6 He also paid about 7,500 pounds of silver to hire 100,000 experienced fighting men from Israel.
7 But a man of God came to him and said, "Your Majesty, do not hire troops from Israel,
for the Lord is not with Israel. He will not help those people of Ephraim!
8 If you let them go with your troops into battle, you will be defeated by the enemy no matter how well you fight.
God will overthrow you, for he has the power to help you or to trip you up."
9 Amaziah asked the man of God, "But what about all that silver I paid to hire the army of Israel?"
The man of God replied, "THE LORD IS ABLE TO GIVE YOU MUCH MORE THAN THIS!"

How a believer handles money may affect how much spiritual responsibility GOD CAN PLACE in their hands.

Faithfulness With Worldly Substance

Luke 16:11 (NLT)

11 And if you are **untrustworthy about worldly wealth**,
who will **TRUST YOU** with **the true riches of heaven**?

Kingdom Minded Believers Understand The Concept Of **Sacrificing Material Gain For Kingdom Sake**

Mark 10:28-30 (NLT)

28 Then Peter began to speak up. "**We've given up everything to follow you**," he said.
29 "Yes," Jesus replied, "and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters
or mother or father or children or property, **for my sake and for the Good News**,
30 **will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property**—
along with persecution. **AND IN THE WORLD TO COME** that person will have eternal life.

The Rich Young Ruler Held On To His **Earthly Treasure**

Jesus Promises **Increase For Those Who Are Willing To Release** and **Trust God With The Reward**

Faithfulness In Stewardship

Luke 16:12 (NLT)

12 And if you are not faithful with other people's things,
why should you be trusted with things of your own?

Once Again, He Drives Home Ownership vs. Stewardship

Ownership establishes rights, but stewardship establishes responsibilities

Psalm 24:1 ~ The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The World and those who dwell in it…

3 Marks Of Stewardship

1) Recognition ~ This Is Not Mine
2) Responsibility ~ Manage What Has Been Entrusted To Me
3) Reward ~ If I Am Faithful Over This ~ Owner Rewards Faithfulness

Genesis 39:3-6 (NLT)

3 Potiphar noticed this and realized that the Lord was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did.
4 This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household
and everything he owned. 5 From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property,
the Lord began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops
and livestock flourished. 6 So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned.
With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!

Faithfulness In Stewardship

Luke 16:12 (NLT)

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Genesis 39:20-23 (NLT)

20 So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained.
21 But the Lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the Lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. 22 Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. 23 The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The Lord was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

Genesis 41:39-41 (NLT)

39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you,
clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are.
40 You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you.
Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."
41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, **"I HEREBY PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF THE ENTIRE LAND OF EGYPT."**

IF YOU ARE FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS...
GOD WILL MAKE YOU RULER OVER MUCH

In Conclusion

God Is Monitoring….

Faithfulness In The Small Things

Faithfulness With Worldly Substance

Faithfulness In Stewardship