

STEWARDSHIP

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S BUSINESS

PART II



What Is Stewardship?

Most people, when they hear the word “**STEWARDSHIP**”, think about *money* ~ *tithes*, *offerings*, and *campaigns*

STEWARDSHIP is faithfully managing whatever God gives us...
opportunities, interests, skills, employment, power, family, talents, spiritual gifts, land, money, etc.
FOR HIS GLORY.

Principles From Last Week

Stewardship Begins With What You Already Possess

Stewardship Is Trusting That God's Insight Leads To Increase

Stewardship Includes Prioritizing The Assignment Over The Abundance



Key Verses?

2 Kings 4:1-7 (NIV)

1 The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and **you know that he revered the Lord**. But now his creditor is coming to **take my two boys as his slaves**."

2 Elisha replied to her, "**HOW CAN I HELP YOU? TELL ME, WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR HOUSE?**"
"Your servant has nothing there at all," she said, "**EXCEPT A LITTLE OIL**."

3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. **DON'T ASK FOR JUST A FEW**.

4 Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons. Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."

5 She left him and afterward shut the door behind her and her sons. They brought the jars to her and **SHE KEPT POURING**. 6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "**BRING ME ANOTHER ONE**."

But he replied, "**THERE IS NOT A JAR LEFT**." **THEN THE OIL STOPPED FLOWING**.

7 She went and told the man of God, and he said, "**Go, sell the oil and pay your debts**.
You and your sons can **LIVE ON WHAT IS LEFT**."



Introduction

Last week in Luke 5, We examined *A Stewardship Shift*
Peter went from *Managing A Fishing Business* To *Managing Kingdom Business*

Peter Is Already *Productive In Business* ~ He Knows About *Management*
Jesus Meets Peter *In The Place of Passion* And Shifts Him Into *The Place Of Purpose*

In Our Text Tonight...

This widow is *not dealing with a productive business...* *She Is In A Season Of Lack*
Her Husband Served Well, But *They Are Experiencing Lack In This Season*

Unlike Peter, She Didn't Receive Abundance To Leave For An Assignment
She Received Increase To LIVE ON....

Circumstances Were Different, *But The Principles Were Familiar*
In both cases, *God begins with what is already available, gives an unusual instruction,*
and *multiplies what is surrendered through obedience.*

Regardless of Your Season, *PRACTICING GOD'S PRINCIPLES* Will Always Lead To *Greater Opportunities*



Stewardship Begins With What You Already Possess

2 Kings 4:2 (NLT)

2 “What can I do to help you?” Elisha asked. “Tell me, what do you have in the house?”
“Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,” she replied.

She Is In A Crisis and She Comes To The Man of God

If We Are Not Careful, We Will Limit God’s Word To Only Spiritual Matters

How Does He Handle Her Crisis?

Elisha does not ignore her crisis, but he refuses to let her expect the solution to come from somebody else.

He Shifts and Shares The Responsibility

Notice The Shift

“What can somebody else do for you?” ~ “What has God already entrusted to you?”

Shift From Dependency To Participation

DIVINE PROVISION WILL INVOLVE HUMAN PARTICIPATION

Mark 6:37-38 (NLT)

37 But Jesus said, “**You feed them.**” “**With what?**” they asked. “We’d have to work for months to earn enough money to buy food for all these people!” 38 “**How much bread do you have?**” he asked. “**GO AND FIND OUT.**”

They came back and reported, “We have five loaves of bread and two fish.”

BEFORE MULTIPLICATION COMES IDENTIFICATION.

Stewardship Begins With What You Already Possess

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“Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,” she replied.

Notice Her Response

*Her View Of Her Inventory Is Based On What She Has Lost...Not What She Has Left
Based On Everything That She Has Lost ~ It Is Difficult To Focus On What Is Left
Your Mindset Can Hinder Your Miracle*

You Must Learn To *Minimize What You Lost* and *Trust God With What You Have Left*
She Does Admit.... I DO HAVE A LITTLE OIL...

What she considered *INSIGNIFICANT* would become *THE STARTING POINT OF HER BREAKTHROUGH*.
Stewardship begins by *recognizing that God often starts with what He has already placed in our hands*.

John 6:9 (NLT)

9 “There’s a young boy here with five barley loaves and two fish. *But what good is that with this huge crowd?*”

The Problem Is That *We Measure What We Have To What We Need*
But When You Have Jesus ~ You Have More Than You Need Regardless of What You Have

THE QUESTION IS ~ DO YOU HAVE THE TRUST TO TRANSFER FROM YOUR HANDS

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“Nothing at all, except a flask of olive oil,” she replied.

The Question.....

What Do I Already Have That I Can Put In God's Hands?

Stewardship Refuses To Confuse

“Not Enough To Finish” with “Not Enough For God To Do It”



Stewardship Is Trusting That God's Insight Leads To Increase

2 Kings 4:3-4 (NIV)

3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. *Don't ask for just a few.*

4 *Then go inside and shut the door behind you and your sons.* Pour oil into all the jars, and as each is filled, put it to one side."

After Inventory Comes Insight

He gives her a set of instructions that does not seemingly match what she needs...

*She has a debt problem ~ **Instructions** ~ Go Get Empty Jars*

The Insight Does Not Match The Expected Outcome She Is Praying For

We Often Confuse Unusual With Unnecessary

But God Does Not Require Understanding, He Requires Obedience

The Responsibility Is To Trust The One Who Gave The Instructions

STOP LOOKING FOR GOD TO DO IT THE SAME WAY TO RECEIVE THE SAME BLESSING

Exodus 17:6 (NIV)

6 I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. *Strike the rock*, and water will come out of it for the people to drink."

Numbers 20:8 (NIV)

8 "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. *Speak to that rock* before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink."

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and as each is filled, put it to one side."*

Insight Will Always Include Participation

"GO AROUND" ~ "ASK" ~ "GO INSIDE AND SHUT THE DOOR"

"POUR OIL INTO ALL THE JARS" ~ "PUT IT TO ONE SIDE"

*God Will Provide The Supernatural Increase
But She Has To Participate In The Process*

SHE HAD FAITH

Faith is not just believing what God said...

Faith is Behaving like what God said is true

Even When It Does Not Make Sense

Participation Becomes The Evidence That She Truly Trusts The Insight

HER OPPORTUNITY IS CONNECTED TO HER OBEDIENCE

Stewardship Prepares With An Expectation Of Increase

2 Kings 4:3-4 (NIV)

3 Elisha said, "Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars.

DON'T ASK FOR JUST A FEW.

*The Prophet Does Not Give Her **A NUMBER** Of Vessels To Gather*

*He Leaves That **Up To Her Level Of Increase She Desires***

*He Only Encourages Her ~ **Don't Think Too Small***

*Her **Expectation** Is Connected To **The Size Of Her Increase***

*God Says... **Prepare For What You Are Expecting***

Preparation Is Evidence Of Expectation

If I Expect Growth ~ I Prepare For It ~

If I Expect Increase ~ I Prepare For It

If I Expect God To Give Me More ~ I Create Room For More

Her Capacity Became The Limit

2 Kings 4:6 (NIV)

6 When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied,

*"There is not a jar left." **Then the oil stopped flowing.***

THE SUPPLY EXCEEDED THE SPACE SHE HAD PREPARED

Stewardship Prepares With An Expectation Of Increase

Expectation Is Based On The Language That God Uses

Malachi 3:10 (NIV)

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not *throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.*

Proverbs 3:9-10 (NIV)

9 Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;
10 *then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.*

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)

20 Now to Him who is able to do *exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think,*
according to the power that works in us,

Luke 6:38 (NKJV)

38 Give, and it will be given to you: *good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom.* For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NKJV)

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and *he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

Psalms 23:5 (NKJV)

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; *My cup runs over.*

In Conclusion

Stewardship Begins With What You Already Possess

Stewardship Is Trusting That God's Insight Leads To Increase

Stewardship Prepares With An Expectation Of Increase

