

STEWARDSHIP

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S BUSINESS

PART I



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.

In Luke 5, Jesus steps into Peter’s **everyday routine** and shares this lesson...

I CAN INSTANTLY TAKE YOU FROM LACK TO OVERFLOW...

But Are You **Obedient Enough** To **Handle Overflow**?

Will Overflow Affect Your Overall Assignment?

Luke 5 Shows Us **A Stewardship Shift**

Peter goes 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**

Before Jesus can **TRUST PETER** with **Kingdom Business...**
Peter has to learn that **EVERYTHING HE HAS....** Including his boat, his nets, his resources and his life
IS AVAILABLE TO THE KING FOR KINGDOM BUSINESS

Stewardship Begins With What You Already Possess

Luke 5:2-3 (NIV)

2 he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.
3 He got into one of the boats, **the one belonging to Simon**, and asked him to put out a little from shore.
Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

Vs. 3 Gives Us *The Tension of Stewardship* ~ “*It Belongs To Simon*”

Peter had worked for it... We assume Peter Bought it.... Peter Maintains It... Peter Was Responsible For It
IT BELONGS TO PETER

Psalms 24:1 (NLT)

1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

Stewardship Introduces *A Tension* That Every Believer Has To Settle
There Is A Difference Between **Possession and Ownership**
I may possess it, BUT that does not mean I ultimately own it

*Before We Wrestle With Giving Something to God,
We Must Understand Who Owns It In The First Place*

If I Feel Like I Own It... Then I Will Always Feel Like God Is Trying To Take Something From Me...
Stewardship Says... God Is Simply Asking Me **To Make Available** Something That He Has **Entrusted To Me**

Stewardship Begins With What You Already Possess

Luke 5:2-3 (NIV)

2 he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.
3 He got into one of the boats, the one **BELONGING TO SIMON**, and asked him to put out a little from shore.
Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

He Is Using *Something That Peter Possesses* To Get A Message To Someone Else
In Acts 2, Peter Preaches At Pentecost and 3,000 are saved
It Begins With Using His Boat, But Eventually **GOD USED HIM**

Jesus Asks For Access To The Boat That Peter *Already Has*
WHAT IS GOD ASKING YOU FOR THAT YOU ARE RELUCTANT TO SURRENDER
Time.... Talent...Treasure

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Genesis 22:2 (NLT)

2 “**TAKE YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON**—yes, Isaac, **whom you love so much**—and go to the land of Moriah.
Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.”

GIVE ME WHAT I GAVE YOU!!!

CAN GOD TRUST YOU TO RECEIVE SOMETHING WITHOUT BECOMING POSSESSIVE OF IT

Stewardship Begins With What You Already Possess

BIBLICAL EXAMPLE

Mark 10:17, 21-22 (NLT)

*17 As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must **I DO** to inherit eternal life?”*

*21 Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. “There is still one thing you haven’t done,” he told him. “**Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. THEN COME, FOLLOW ME.**” 22 At this the man’s face fell, and he went away very sad, **FOR HE HAD MANY POSSESSIONS.***

*Stewardship Is Not Measured By What Is **In Your Hand**;
It Is Revealed By **What You Are Willing To Release** From Your Hand*

*DOES WHAT YOU HAVE STILL BELONG TO GOD
When God Asks For Access To It*



Stewardship Is Trusting That God's Insight Leads To Increase

Luke 5:4 (NKJV)

4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon,
"Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

Once Peter gives Jesus ACCESS... then he receives INSIGHT THAT LEADS TO INCREASE
Insight is knowing what to do with what God has already placed in your hands
because you have heard His instruction.

Biblical insight is DIVINE ILLUMINATION that allows me to see what I could not see,
understand what I could not understand,
and act in a way I would not have acted without God's direction.

Peter had the ability, the resources, and the experience and COMES UP EMPTY
INSIGHT tells me HOW God wants me to use what I have been given to get his desired results

This is where many people miss out on DIVINE BREAKTHROUGHS...
We Lean To OUR Understanding And Knowledge
BUT INSIGHT COMES FROM A DEEPER TRUST IN GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS



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There Are Universal Principles That God Expects All Of Us To Practice

Joshua 1:8 (NLT)

8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night
so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.

These Principles Are Universal....

Forgive, Love, Honor God, Tell The Truth, ect...

But Insight Is Deeper...

Sometimes.. God will give you an instruction that is specific to your assignment,
your season, your purpose, and your development.

It may challenge YOUR passion ~ It may challenge YOUR preference

It may challenge YOUR understanding of YOUR purpose

It may not make sense to everybody around you.

Because every divine instruction is not a universal instruction.

BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU COPY OF SOMEONE ELSE PAPER!!!

Stewardship Is Trusting That God's Insight Leads To Increase

Biblical Examples

Sometimes God gives an instruction designed specifically **TO CONFRONT WHAT HAS CONTROL OF YOU**.

Rich Young Ruler ~ Sell Your Stuff and Give To The Poor

Abraham ~ Sacrifice Your Son...Your Only Son

Joshua and His Troops ~ March Around The Wall For 6 Days and On The 7th Day... Make Some Noise

Gideon ~ Narrow Your Army Down To 300

Widow In 2 Kings ~ Go Borrow Empty Vessels and Go In Your Closet

How God tells **YOU** to exercise **YOUR FAITH** in a particular season/circumstance may be peculiar **TO YOU**...

HERE IS WHERE IT GETS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT...

God's Instruction **FOR THIS SEASON**... May not be a duplicate of **HIS INSTRUCTION FROM THE LAST SEASON**

DON'T TURN A METHOD INTO A PRINCIPLE

Luke 5:4 (NKJV)

4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "**Launch out into the deep** and let down your nets for a catch."

John 21:6 (NKJV)

6 And He said to them, "**Cast the net on the right side of the boat**, and you will find some."

So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

God Does Not Want You Guessing... He Wants You Trusting

Stewardship Includes Prioritizing The Assignment Over The Abundance

Luke 5:10-11 (NLT)

10 Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! **From now on you’ll be fishing for people!**”

11 And as soon as they landed, **they left everything and followed Jesus.**

God **Supplied Abundance** To **Strengthen Their Faith In Him**

Peter **receives abundance** and then **refuses to let abundance replace the assignment.**

THE ABUNDANCE WAS REAL, BUT IT WAS NOT THE ASSIGNMENT

THAT IS THE TEST.

It is one thing to trust God **when the nets are empty.**

It is another thing to **STAY SURRENDERED** when the nets are full.

ABUNDANCE REVEALS WHAT HAS FIRST PLACE

PETER HAS A DECISION TO MAKE...

Will I build my life **around the fish**, or will I **follow the One who gave me the fish?**

Will what God gave me now compete with the God who gave it?

STEWARDSHIP MINDSET

“God, **whatever You give me**, **don't let it become more important than what You called me to do.**”

DON'T LET THE BLESSING BECOME THE DESTINATION

Stewardship Includes Prioritizing The Assignment Over The Abundance

When You Are Tempted To Go Back To The Passion Instead Of Staying Faithful To The Purpose

John 21:3 (NKJV)

*3 Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We are going with you also."
They went out and immediately got into the boat, and **THAT NIGHT THEY CAUGHT NOTHING.***

Just A Reminder....If What You Are Doing Is Not Working...

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE NOT STRAYED AWAY FROM THE ASSIGNMENT

John 21:9-12 (NKJV)

*9 Then, as soon as they had come to land, **they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread.***

*10 Jesus said to them, **"BRING SOME OF THE FISH WHICH YOU HAVE JUST CAUGHT."***

*11 Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken....12 Jesus said to them, **"COME AND EAT BREAKFAST."***

THIS IS STEWARDSHIP....

GOD ASKING YOU TO HONOR HIM WITH SOMETHING THAT CAME FROM HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE.

