STEWARDSHIP

TAKING CARE OF GOD'S BUSINESS

PART VIII

THE CONCLUSION

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 First Two Weeks ~ Luke 5; 2 Kings 4

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

Stewardship Prepares With An Expectation Of Increase

Week Three

The Stewardship Journey Is Consistent

It Began With Management In The Garden

In The Wilderness, There Is The Management of Provision

In The Promised Land, There Is The Management of Increase

Jesus Continues The Stewardship Principle Of Faithfulness

Week Four

WHAT DOES THE WAY I HANDLE WHAT IS IN MY HAND REVEAL ABOUT WHO HAS AUTHORITY OVER MY HEART

The Heart Of Contentment ~ Rich Fool

The Heart Of Surrender ~ Rich Young Ruler

The Heart Of Compassion ~ Rich Man and Lazarus

The Heart Of Responsibility ~ Faithful Servants With Talents

The Heart Of Worship ~ Expensive Perfume

Week Five

We Can't Expect The Original Purpose Without Personal Participation

Personal Participation Requires The Proper Perspective

As The Church Expanded Giving Was Planned and Prioritized

We Must Maintain Integrity With What God Entrusts

Week Six….

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*

Week Seven

God Is Monitoring….

Faithfulness In The Small Things

Faithfulness With Worldly Substance

Faithfulness In Stewardship

Tonight…

We Will Discuss ***The Measurement of Stewardship***
How Do You Know You Are Growing
In The Area Of Stewardship…

Key Verse?

John 21:11-12 (NIV)

11 Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore.
It was full of large fish, ***153****, but even with so many the net was not torn.*
12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him,
"Who are you?" THEY KNEW IT WAS THE LORD.

Introduction

Jesus opens His ministry with Peter in a fishing boat, and He closes it in the same place.
Same sea, same men, same empty night, same nets…. BUT THEY ARE NOT THE SAME DISCIPLES.

Luke 5 shows what stewardship looks like when it is new: overflow that overwhelms your capacity.
John 21 shows what it looks like when it has matured: overflow that can be counted and accounted for.

GOD EXPECTS GROWTH IN YOUR STEWARDSHIP…
The Evidence Of Growth Is Accountability
CAN YOU BE TRUSTED WITH MORE?

The real evidence of growth in stewardship is our ability to give an account of what God has entrusted to us.
The question is not simply, "How much has God given me?"
But….
"WHAT HAVE I DONE WITH WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN ME?“

As we compare Luke 5 with John 21, we will discover a powerful illustration of this truth:
Growth in stewardship is not just about receiving greater blessings,
but DEVELOPING GREATER RESPONSIBILITY for the blessings we receive.

Introduction

Luke 5:4-7 (NIV)

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."
5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.
But because you say so, I will let down the nets."
6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.
7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them,
and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

John 21:3-6, 10-11 (NLT)

3 Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." "We'll come, too," they all said.
So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.
4 At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was.
5 He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied.
6 Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!"
So they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

10 "Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus said.
11 So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore.
There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn't torn.

Growth Principle #1 ~ Emptiness Leads To Examination

Luke 5:5 (NLT)

5 "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing.

John 21:4-5 (NLT)

4 At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn't see who he was.
5 He called out, "Fellows, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied.

One of the first signs of maturity in stewardship is our willingness to examine what we are doing WHEN WE ARE NOT GETTING THE RESULTS WE EXPECTED.

If There Is No Expectation...There Will Be No Examination

Empty Nets Should Cause Us to Examine Our Methods
Empty Nets Should Cause Us to Examine Our Closeness To God
Empty Nets Should Cause Us To Be Open To Hearing Divine Instructions

Luke 5:4 ~ "Launch out into the deep..."
John 21:6 ~ "Cast the net on the right side of the boat..."

Sometimes the greatest obstacle to our increase is our unwillingness to examine what needs to change.

Growth Principle #1 ~ Emptiness Leads To Examination

*Sometimes our emptiness is not simply an indication that **we need more resources**.*
*It is an invitation to examine whether we are following **GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS**.*

John 2:1-5 (NKJV)

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
2 Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.
*3 **And when they ran out of wine**, the mother of Jesus said to Him, **"They have no wine."***
4 Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."
*5 His mother said to the servants, **"Whatever He says to you, do it."***

***Before asking God for something more**,*
***EXAMINE** whether you are **properly responding to His instructions** concerning **what you already have**.*

Growth in stewardship begins when we stop simply examining what is missing
and START EXAMINING WHETHER WE ARE OBEYING WHAT GOD HAS SPOKEN.

Growth Principle #2 ~ Monitor The Growth In Your Response

Luke 5:4-5 (NKJV)

4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon,
"Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing;
nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

John 21:5-6 (NKJV)

5 Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No."
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.

*Mature stewards don't need to be **CONVINCED EVERY TIME GOD SPEAKS**.*
"The more you see God come through, the quicker you obey."
"Trust that's been tested obeys faster."
Previous Provisions Should Produce Present Confidence

Are You At The Place Where You Can Comply Without Being Convinced

Growth Principle #3 ~ Growth In Accountability

Luke 5:6-7 (NKJV)

6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.
7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them.
And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

John 21:11 (NKJV)

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.

In Luke 5 ~ They Experienced Abundance That Was Overwhelming
In John 21 ~ They Experienced Abundance With Accountability

An abundance of resources without sufficient capacity to manage them
CREATES THE POSSIBILITY OF WASTE.

Increased Income Is Dangerous Without Accountability
Increased Opportunity Is Dangerous Without Accountability
Increased Partnerships Is Dangerous Without Accountability

At some point, we must move beyond celebrating the Blessing TO ACCOUNTING FOR WHAT WE DID WITH IT.

Growth Principle #4 ~ Growth In Gratitude

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." Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him,
"Who are You?"--knowing that it was the Lord.

One of the greatest measurements of our growth in stewardship is
how OUR GRATITUDE DEVELOPS as we experience GOD'S PROVISIONS.

A Heart Of Gratitude Understands This…
Never become so consumed with what you are trying to get
THAT YOU FORGET WHO ALREADY POSSESSES EVERYTHING YOU NEED…

God is not asking us to give Him something He cannot obtain.
He is giving us AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE for what we have received.

HAS MY GRATITUDE GROWN AS MY BLESSINGS HAVE INCREASED?

How Do We Measure Stewardship Growth.....

Growth Principle #1 ~ Emptiness Leads To Examination

Growth Principle #2 ~ Monitor The Growth In Your Response

Growth Principle #3 ~ Growth In Accountability

Growth Principle #4 ~ Growth In Gratitude