

*Principles
Of
Biblical Stewardship*

Can God Trust Me With More

Introduction

STEWARDSHIP is one of the principal themes of the Bible, and yet it is often overlooked or minimized in discussions about the Christian life. The Scriptures say a great deal about stewardship because it *affects virtually every aspect of our earthly existence...*

It touches *every area* of life, including **OUR TIME**, **OUR TALENT**, and **OUR TREASURE**.

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

STEWARDSHIP expresses our obedience regarding the **MANAGEMENT** of everything God has placed under our control

PRINCIPLE OF MANAGEMENT

Management is the *effective, efficient, correct* and *timely use* of *another person's Property/Resources* For the purpose for which they were delegated.

MANAGEMENT IS RESPONSIBILITY WITH RESOURCES

THE CONCEPT OF MANAGEMENT

From the very beginning, God placed *an emphasis* on *Management*...

Genesis 2:4-9 (NIV)

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens-- 5 and *no shrub of the field* had yet appeared on the earth and *no plant of the field* had yet sprung up, *for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth* and **THERE WAS NO MAN TO WORK THE GROUND,**

7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. 8 Now *the LORD God had planted a garden* in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. 9 And *the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground*--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:15-18 (NIV)

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden **TO WORK IT AND TAKE CARE OF IT.**

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

18 The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

HELPER TO DO WHAT????

Manage What I Gave Him...

THE CONCEPT OF MANAGEMENT

From the very beginning, God placed *an emphasis* on *Management*...

God Needs a Manager of His Resources

God Needs a Manager of His Family

God Needs a Manager of His Church

1 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)

1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task.

2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money.

4 He must **MANAGE HIS OWN FAMILY WELL** and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

5 (If anyone does not know how to **MANAGE HIS OWN FAMILY**,
how can he take care of God's church?)

God Places A Heavy Emphasis on Management/Stewardship

1 Corinthians 9:17-18 (ESV)

17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will,
I am still **ENTRUSTED WITH A STEWARDSHIP**.

18 What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge,
so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

THE CONCEPT OF MANAGEMENT

God Put A Manager In Position For A Crisis

Genesis 41:28-36 (NLT)

28 “This will happen just as I have described it, for God has revealed to Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do. 29 **The next seven years will be a period of great prosperity** throughout the land of Egypt. 30 But afterward **there will be seven years of famine so great that all the prosperity will be forgotten in Egypt**. Famine will destroy the land. 31 This famine will be so severe that even the memory of the good years will be erased. 32 As for having two similar dreams, it means that these events have been decreed by God, and he will soon make them happen. 33 “Therefore, **Pharaoh should find an intelligent and wise man and put him in charge of the entire land of Egypt**. 34 Then Pharaoh should appoint supervisors over the land and let them collect one-fifth of all the crops during the seven good years. 35 Have them gather all the food produced in the good years that are just ahead and bring it to Pharaoh’s storehouses. Store it away, and guard it so there will be food in the cities. 36 That way there will be enough to eat when the seven years of famine come to the land of Egypt. **Otherwise this famine will destroy the land.**”

Genesis 41:38-40 (NLT)

38 So Pharaoh asked his officials, “Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?” 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.”

God Gave Him Favor To Manage His Resources

Key Passage

Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT)

14 “Again, the **Kingdom of Heaven** can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and **ENTRUSTED HIS MONEY TO THEM** while he was gone. 15 He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—**DIVIDING IT IN PROPORTION TO THEIR ABILITIES**. He then left on his trip.

16 “The servant who received the five bags of silver began to **INVEST THE MONEY** and **EARNED FIVE MORE**.

17 The servant with two bags of silver also **WENT TO WORK** and **EARNED TWO MORE**. 18 But the servant who received the one bag of silver **DUG A HOLE IN THE GROUND AND HID THE MASTER’S MONEY**. 19 “After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to **GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF HOW THEY HAD USED HIS MONEY**.

20 The servant to whom he had **ENTRUSTED** the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’ 21 “**The master was full of praise**. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. **YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL IN HANDLING THIS SMALL AMOUNT**, so now **I WILL GIVE YOU MANY MORE**

RESPONSIBILITIES. Let’s celebrate together!’ 22 “The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’ 23 “The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities.

Let’s celebrate together!’

Key Passage

Matthew 25:14-30 (NLT)

24 “Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, **I KNEW** you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. 25 **I WAS AFRAID I WOULD LOSE YOUR MONEY**, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’ 26 “But the master replied, ‘You **wicked and lazy servant!** If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, 27 why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank?

At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

28 “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and **GIVE IT TO THE ONE WITH THE TEN BAGS OF SILVER.** 29 **TO THOSE WHO USE WELL WHAT THEY ARE GIVEN, EVEN MORE WILL BE GIVEN**, and they will have an abundance.

*But from those who do nothing, even what little they have **WILL BE TAKEN AWAY.***

30 Now throw **this useless servant** into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Awareness of Ownership

Matthew 25:14 (NLT)

14 “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and **ENTRUSTED HIS MONEY TO THEM** while he was gone.

STEWARDSHIP VS. OWNERSHIP

How you view **THIS PERSPECTIVE...** affects how you **MANAGE YOUR RESOURCES**

Psalm 24:1 – “The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Haggai 2:8– “The silver is mine and the gold is mine, declares the Lord Almighty”

Psalm 50:10 ~ For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills.

Job 41:11 ~ Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him? Everything under heaven is Mine.

He has **THE RIGHTS**, and I have **THE RESPONSIBILITY**.

He is **THE MASTER** and I am **THE MANAGER**.

Everything belongs to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV)

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own**? 20 **For you were bought at a price**; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Awareness of Ownership

Matthew 25:14 (NLT)

14 “Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and **ENTRUSTED HIS MONEY TO THEM** while he was gone.

STEWARDSHIP is **MANAGING** God’s treasures **in God’s way**, for **God’s purposes**, and **always for God’s glory**. We begin life with our hands wide open and **nothing in them**. As we mature, by the grace of God, He allows certain things to be placed into our possession, **none of them under our ownership**.

Until we recognize **this truth**, we will not be **good managers** of what has been **entrusted** to us.

Our days are in His hands.

Our gifts and abilities are on loan from Him.

Our money is an “advance” from the Almighty.

Our houses, cars, clothes, and every possession we have doesn’t belong to us.

God has given us **ACCESS** to what **BELONGS TO HIM**.... In exchange, he asks...

JUST BE A GOOD MANAGER

There are some **ADVANTAGES** of not owning...

When something breaks down... I call the owner...

His Responsibility To Repair

Awareness of Capacity

Matthew 25:15 (NLT)

15 He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—
DIVIDING IT IN PROPORTION TO THEIR ABILITIES. He then left on his trip.

He gave them **WHAT THEY COULD HANDLE...** He **ENTRUSTS** based on **THE CAPACITY** to handle it...

If God has not given you increase; **he knows you cannot handle it...**

Your **ALLOCATION** is tied to your **ABILITY** and **CAPACITY**

GOD'S KINGDOM PURPOSES do not operate according to what is "FAIR" but according to **WHAT IS BEST.**

God gives us **WHAT** we can handle **WHEN** we can handle it.

In order "to see our dreams fulfilled and to continue having influence in God's Kingdom,
our **CAPACITY MUST INCREASE.**

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 (NIV)

9 Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, "I gave birth to him in pain." 10 Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "**Oh, that you would bless me and ENLARGE MY TERRITORY!**

Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain."

And God granted his request.

Awareness of Capacity

Matthew 25:15 (NLT)

15 He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—
DIVIDING IT IN PROPORTION TO THEIR ABILITIES. He then left on his trip.

There is a level of pain when **INCREASING CAPACITY**

Psalm 118:5 (NASB)

5 **FROM MY DISTRESS** I called upon the LORD; The LORD answered me and **SET ME IN A LARGE PLACE.**

Psalm 66:10-12 (NLT)

10 You have **tested us**, O God; you have **purified us** like silver.

11 You **captured us in your net** and **laid the burden of slavery on our backs.**

12 Then you **put a leader over us.** We went **through fire and flood,**
but you brought us to a **PLACE OF GREAT ABUNDANCE.**

Jeremiah 12:5 (NKJV)

5 "If you have run with the footmen, and **they have wearied you,** Then how can you **contend with horses?** And if in the land of peace, In which you trusted, **they wearied you,** Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?

There Is **A Process** to **Expanding Your Capacity** To Receive **More**

Awareness of Capacity

Biblical Illustration

2 Kings 4:2-6 (NKJV)

2 So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?"

And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

3 Then he said, "**Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors--empty vessels; do not gather just a few.**

4 And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."

5 So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. 6 Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." **SO THE OIL CEASED.**

The oil only **CEASED** when she had no more containers to hold it – if she had gathered a hundred more containers, **increasing her capacity to receive**, the oil would have **continued to flow**.

She **Limited** Her Blessing because she had a **LIMITED** amount of containers...

Awareness of Accountability

Matthew 25:19 (NKJV)

19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and **SETTLED ACCOUNTS WITH THEM.**

Clearly all three men **knew the master would come back,**
and they all knew that he would **demand an accounting.**

Are You **Prepared** To **GIVE AN ACCOUNT** With What God Has Blessed You With?

Romans 14:12 (NKJV)

12 So then each of us shall **GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF** to God.

We should live everyday knowing that God is holding us accountable for how we manage our:

Time ~ The Boundaries in life where opportunities exist

Talent ~ The Abilities God has given me to serve Him and impact others

Treasure ~ The Resources that we can use for Kingdom Living

Example

Bank Teller

Awareness of Rewards

Matthew 25:21 (NLT)

21 "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. **YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL IN HANDLING THIS SMALL AMOUNT**, so now I will give you **MANY MORE RESPONSIBILITIES**. Let's celebrate together!'

The Bible shows us in this parable, that **FAITHFUL STEWARDS WHO DO THE MASTER'S WILL** with the master's resources can **EXPECT TO BE REWARDED**

Colossians 3:23-24 (NKJV)

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, **as to the Lord and not to men**,
24 **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward** of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Man can **PAY YOU...** But **GOD REWARDS YOU**

Not All Rewards Will Be **On Earth....** Not All Rewards Will Be **In Heaven...**

Mark 10:28-30 (NKJV)

28 Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You."
29 So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, **for My sake and the gospel's**,
30 **who shall not receive a hundredfold NOW IN THIS TIME--houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions--and in the age to come, eternal life.**

Are You *MAXIMIZING*
The Time, The Talent and *The Treasure*
That God has *ENTRUSTED* With You

Conclusion

Awareness of *Ownership*
Awareness of *Capacity*
Awareness of *Accountability*
Awareness of *Rewards*