

Entrusted 1 Ownership

Introduction -

- A Jesus People emerging
- Recognising and submitting to his Lordship, his rule
- Learning him, learning his ways, - realigning their lives as they do
- Unlearning what they must
- Embracing change as necessary

Ownership

- The tension of ownership, accumulation
- 'Mine!' From when we can speak and it carries on throughout our lives
- But the Lord steps in and says - Mine

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." **Luke 12:15**

1. **God owns everything** - leading us to stewardship

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **Genesis 1.1**

David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. [11] Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. [12] Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. [13] Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. **1 Chronicles 29:10-13**

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; [2] for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters. **Psalms 24:1-2**

- so stop behaving like an owner with supreme control
- He owns the earth
- Our lives

Everything under heaven belongs to me. **Job 41:11**

We are stewards

- We are stewards of time, our children, our money, this earth, in fact none of it is really ours it is all his and we will have to give an account of it one day

- So the question should really be ‘Lord what do you want me to do with your money’
- We have a temporary life on earth
- We are given a limited amount of time
- We are given gifts and skills
- We are given resources to manage
- There is a problem when we think our money belongs to us
- The problem is when we start behaving like owners instead of stewards

2. God sees everything - Making us accountable

The Lord looks down from heaven on the entire human race; he looks to see if anyone is truly wise, if anyone seeks God. **Psalm 14:2** (NLT)

- God always looking
- At the entire human race
- Looking for wise people
- Those who seek him

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. **2 Chronicles 16:9**

The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men; his eyes examine them. **Psalm 11:4**

From heaven the Lord looks down and sees all mankind; from his dwelling place he watches all who live on earth— he who forms the hearts of all, who considers everything they do. **Psalm 33.13-15**

- My thoughts matter, My actions matter
- I will give an account
- We will give an account of our time
- We will give an account of our talents
- We will give an account of our relationships
- We will give an account of all the money that passed through our hands
- We will give an account of how we spent our energy
- We will give an account of the revelation we were granted
- We will give an account of the earth

3. God knows best - So we submit to his lordship

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. [9] “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55:8-9**

All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. [10] For you are great and do marvellous deeds; you alone are God. [11] Teach me your way, Lord, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

Psalm 86:9-11

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **John 14:6**

- He knows how we ought to live
- He knows how marriage works
- He knows how humans are meant to flourish
- He knows what values we ought to hold

Serve the Lord with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. [12] Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Psalm 2:11-12

- 'Dad knows best or Mum knows best.'
- Google knows best?
- Politicians know best?
- The Lord knows best

Calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to saving yourself, your true self. What good would it do to get everything you want and lose you, the real you? What could you ever trade your soul for? **Mark 8:34-37 MSG**

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. **Matthew 6:33**

Application

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. **Romans 12:1-2 MSG**