

Stewardship Part 2

As I stated last week

Stewardship is the key to increase

Stewardship is the path to promotion

And it is the qualifying factor for our callings.

Why take on the responsibility of stewardship?

2Co 5:9-10 (NAS95) 9 Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Gal 6:10 (NLT) 10 Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

1. Areas of Stewardship

Time:

Eph 5:15-16 (AMPC) 15 Look carefully then how you walk! Live purposefully and worthily and accurately, not as the unwise and witless, but as wise (sensible, intelligent people), 16 Making the very most of the time [buying up each opportunity], because the days are evil.

Talents:

1Co 12:7 (NAS95) 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the **common** good.

1Pe 4:10 (NAS95) 10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Treasure:

2Co 9:6-7 (AMPC) 6 [Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings. 7 Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, "prompt to do it") giver [whose heart is in his giving]. [Pro 22:9]

Creation:

Psa 24:1 (NAS95) 1 A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.

Gen 1:28 (NAS95) 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

2. Challenges to Stewardship

Mammon

Mat 6:24 (MKJV) 24 No one can serve two masters. For either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

People often question what is mammon a better question is who is mammon.

Mammon is often considered to as a Syrian deity who bestowed wealth and influence if it was worshipped.

Remember: worship shapes worth.

You can't serve 2 masters

The religious think that the way to do away with mammon is to divorce themselves from money.

Take a vow of poverty

*Individuals take vows of poverty but institutions never do.

NET WORTH OUGHT NEVER BE CONFUSED WITH SELF WORTH.

If you measure your worth by your assets, cars, houses, or money you are under the influence of mammon.

If your self value is based on your assets you are a servant of mammon.

Act 17:28 (TPT) 28 It is through him that we live and function and have our identity; just as your own poets have said, 'Our lineage comes from him.'

You overcome mammon by finding your identity completely in Christ.

This bring us to the next big challenge to good stewardship

MisUnderstanding Contentment.

People don't understand contentment today.

In our materialistic, stuff-driven society, where bigger is better and faster is master, it can seem impossible to actually find contentment.

To slow down and say, "I'm content with the car I have, the house I own, and the job I love." That doesn't mean we should stop setting goals and working toward them.

1Ti 6:6 (NAS95) 6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

Whenever I see a phrase in Scripture like "great gain," I view it through the spiritual lens, but I also view it through a financial lens. I think this is a financial principle.

It's not about piling up stuff for the sake of stuff .

It's not a prosperity message; it's a responsibility message.

Our ability to build wealth, use wealth for the kingdom, and enjoy the wealth God gives us all boils down to whether or not we can keep that wealth in perspective.

And that's a matter of contentment.

The problem is, we often get confused about what contentment means.

Sometimes I'll hear people in the church say, "Well, if you were a content Christian, you'd be happy to just sit at home and pray all day. You wouldn't worry so much about working hard and making money. You'd just trust God to show up and take care of all your needs."

Deu 8:7-9 (AMPC)

7 For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills;

8 A land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey;

9 A land in which you shall eat food without shortage and lack nothing in it; a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills you can dig copper.

A GOOD LAND IS NOT A LAND OF LAZINESS BUT A LAND OF INDUSTRY.

Cultivate a dissatisfaction with everything that is ordinary in yourself.

Compel yourself to improve your mind, your abilities and your circumstances.

If you have the talent of cooking, be the best cook in the community.

If you have a talent, no matter what it is, make that talent stand out until men will admire it.

Then someone will want to pay the price for it.

Then your talent brings increase!

Nowhere in Scripture do we get the idea that contentment means apathy or a lack of ambition.

I see that "godliness with contentment is great gain," but I also see that I'm called to "do [my] work heartily, as for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23 NASB).

A CONTENTED SPIRIT IS NEVER AN EXCUSE FOR IDLENESS.

Just look at the apostle Paul.

This guy lived life wide open before he met Jesus, and he certainly didn't slow down after he met Jesus.

This man had things to do, places to go, and people to see! He was moving.

He was a mover and a shaker!

He never took his foot off the pedal no matter what he had gone through or what he was heading into.

Instead, he said, **Php 3:13-14 (AMPC)** 13 I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.

Content, But Still Pressing Forward . . .

Paul was always pressing. He was always moving forward. He was always going somewhere, always preaching, always ministering, and always setting huge goals for new things to do.

But isn't this the same guy who said, **Php 4:11-13 (NASB)** 11 Not that I speak from need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with little, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Contentment is an immunity to outward circumstances.

Not changed by leanness or abundance, little or lot.

His contentment was not an excuse to sit around and do nothing.

He knew God had big plans for his life and ministry, and those plans involved a whole lot of action.

But Paul didn't need those plans to work out in order to maintain a peaceful spirit. In his heart, he was grateful for what he had, and that

gratitude and contentment made him more excited—not less—to keep pushing forward into whatever God had in store for him.

If you step back and look at **Philippians 4:11–12** together, what Paul is saying here is even more incredible: “I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.”

I love that last part: “whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.” By the way, Paul wrote that while he was sitting in prison!

Even in prison, Paul’s contentment wasn’t based on his circumstances.

CONTENTMENT IS NOT BASED ON CIRCUMSTANCES ITS BASED ON FAITH.

Contentment doesn’t mean you’re not going to set goals and try to reach them; it doesn’t mean you’re going to sit back and relax and stop working at your wealth building, relationships, ministry and kingdom work. But it does mean that you’re not going to be torn up inside with a lust for stuff while you’re working.

You can be content, but you can still push forward

Materialism and Selfishness: The temptation to hoard and misuse resources.

1Ti 6:10 (NAS95) 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Love=covet

Thats the 10th commandment

Heb 13:5 (NAS95) 5 Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

Heb 13:5 (AMPC) 5 Let your character or moral disposition be free from love of money [including greed, avarice, lust, and craving for earthly

possessions] and be satisfied with your present [circumstances and with what you have]; for He [God] Himself has said, I will not in any way fail you nor give you up nor leave you without support. [I will] not, [I will] not, [I will] not in any degree leave you helpless nor forsake nor let [you] down (relax My hold on you)! [Assuredly not!] [Jos 1:5]

Money is a tool to be used not artwork to be collected and admired.

You store art your use tools

Laziness and Neglect: Failing to invest God-given gifts and opportunities.

Pro 13:4 (TPT) 4 The slacker wants it all and ends up with nothing, but the hard worker ends up with all that he longed for.

2Th 3:10-12 (TPT) 10 For when we were with you we instructed you with these words: “Anyone who does not want to work for a living should go hungry.” 11 Now, we hear rumors that some of you are being lazy and neglecting to work—that these people are not busy but busybodies! 12 So with the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, we order them to go back to work in an orderly fashion and exhort them to earn their own living.

3. The Blessings of Stewardship

Luk 12:35 (TPT) 35 “Be prepared for action at a moment’s notice.

Luk 12:42-43 (TPT) 42 The Lord said, “A trustworthy and thoughtful manager [faithful and sensible steward] who understands the ways of his master will be given a ministry of responsibility in his master’s house, serving others exactly what they need at just the right time. 43 (43-44) And when the master returns, he will find that his servant has served him well. I can promise you, he will be given a great reward and will be placed as an overseer of everything the master owns.

Impact: Acts of stewardship can lead to spiritual growth, help meet the needs of others, and glorify God.

Next: We will discuss Increase.