

## Order Part 3

### Ducks Unlimited

#### So far...

- 2 Legs of Blessing: generosity and stewardship.
- God owns all the Ducks! (Remember this every time you see a rubber duck)
- When God is first, everything gets in order. (The tithe defines if we are owners or stewards.)

#### **Deut. 14:23 TLB**

*The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first in your lives.*

- God didn't set up the tithe for His ego. He set it up for our ego.
- Tithing isn't a key to having more money. It's a key to having more of God.

**Tithing is not a business transaction with your church. It's a relational connection with your God.**

- Every payday, we get to tell God, "I trust you and I worship you" (My trust is not in man, in this economy, in myself, or in my wallet.)
- Trust comes from the heart and is exercised with the hand (obedience).
- First Duck: Breaks the curse and releases the blessing. (Those who know, know!)

**Attention:** *If 80% of Christians don't tithe, what are they saying to God every time they get paid? How effective are believers at connecting God's Supply with the World's Needs if only 20% of them put God first?*

#### **Malachi 3:10 (NLT)**

*Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, "I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! **[Ducks Unlimited]** Try it! Put me to the test!*

- Putting God first opens the Windows of Heaven. Kingdom come on earth as it is Heaven!
- We've got to get this 1<sup>st</sup> Duck thing settled so we can move on to what God has for us.
- Being First Duck people is about more than just our needs being met or even the local church's needs being met. He wants to release Heaven on earth through His people.
- He won't do through us that we don't allow Him to do in us.

**The Goal:** Faithful management of God's gifts, including time, talents, possessions, and resources, for the purpose of advancing God's kingdom and serving others.

**God has called His people to steward His move on the earth.**

**Entrust: Commit to trust, to put in the hands of.**

- To effectively steward His move, we must faithfully steward that which He has entrusted to us.
- As a steward, there's an expectation to protect and expand the resources He has entrusted to us.

### **Matthew 25:14-29 (NLT)**

<sup>14</sup> "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.<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> "The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. <sup>17</sup> The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more.<sup>18</sup> But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

<sup>19</sup> "After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. <sup>20</sup> 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.' <sup>21</sup> "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!

<sup>22</sup> "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. <sup>23</sup> "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!'

<sup>24</sup> "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. <sup>25</sup> I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.' <sup>26</sup> "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, <sup>27</sup> why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'

<sup>28</sup> "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

**Ducks- Limited** (owner)

### **Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)**

*<sup>18</sup> “And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may <sup>[a]</sup>establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.*

- The increase is God’s way of confirming His promise, but we must remember it is from the Lord.
- A covenant is a relational agreement. This one refers to one God made with His people.

**Ex. “Teenager Problem”** Not all but most...“This is not your house.” What’s the problem? Childhood – Adolescence – Adulthood is the natural growth progression but so many get stuck. **Here’s how you grow up in the Kingdom: You learn that it’s not yours, it’s His.** When we don’t learn this, we are like teenagers living in adult bodies. We are older and have lived longer but our ducks are still out of order. Signs of age but spiritually immature.

### **Luke 12:16-21**

*<sup>16</sup> And He told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man was very productive. <sup>17</sup> And he began thinking to himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> And he said, ‘This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and I will store all my grain and my goods there. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to <sup>[a]</sup>myself, “You have many goods stored up for many years to come; relax, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!” <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your soul is demanded of you; and as for all that you have prepared, who will own it now?’ <sup>21</sup> Such is the one who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich in relation to God.”*

- Having wealth, expanding his business, and saving wasn’t this guy’s problem. It’s that he owned it instead of stewarding it. Notice what it cost him...his soul.
- **“They are demanding your soul from you.” (mind, will, and emotions.)**
- Too many souls are being sacrificed on the altar of “ownership”
- When we are owners, we’re responsible for all the provision and direction, resulting in all the physical and mental stress rampant among owners. When we live as stewards, the pressure is on Him, and life is simpler.
- Jesus connects our relationship with him to how we steward our resources.

**Ducks- Unlimited** (steward)

*<sup>25</sup> I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth.*

### **Genesis 3:10 (NIV)**

*He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."*

**Owners are motivated by fear. Stewards are motivated by faith.**

**Ex.** The first case of FOMO: (Adam and Eve moved from stewards to owners) God said don't touch that tree. Every time they walked past it, it was a reminder that God owned the Garden. Satan, in essence, tempted them with "ownership" (You'll be like God [owner])

- This is one of the reasons evolutionists hate creationists. In evolution, there's no owner. As a creationist, we believe That God is our Creator/Owner
- Stewardship was God's plan from the beginning.
- The joy leaves and the pressure begins when you swap places with God.
- Broken fellowship with God and all that came from the curse are the results of stewards trying to be owners.
- JESUS became the curse, restoring order with God. When we put our faith in Him, we return ownership of our lives back to God and become stewards.

***Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)***

*<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

**RESPONSE: Jehoshaphat's Secret** (Recap 2 Cor 20 They did the spiritual and the natural and God did a miracle)

1. We can do nothing. (Head in the sand)
2. We can just do the spiritual. (Pray, worship, Word)
3. We can just do the natural. (Plan, Learn, Work) [Everyone in person gets the Assets Under Management Tool as you leave.]

Or...

**Ducks-Unlimited: Natural + Spiritual = Supernatural**