

So Will I...

The Obedience of Stewardship

A new year is upon us and the opportunities to experience and grow nearer to God have never been greater or more necessary. Following God requires faith. In faith, we follow God through “obedience”...but, what does that mean, how can I practically follow Him today, and how what difference will it make? Join us as we explore the obedience of love, faith, stewardship, holiness, and our minds.

While the world is focused on compliance and constraint, God is focused on love and alignment. Obedience should not be viewed as a way to earn God's favor, but rather as a heartfelt response to the grace already received through Jesus. It is an expression of love, trust, and alignment with the His design for us.

All of creation praises God through obeying His every word. Our response should be no different. We've seen how we can obey God by loving Him and others. We've seen how we can obey Him through our faith – in the invisible, improbable, and impossible. Today, we will see how we can obey through stewardship.

Stewardship: Ownership vs. Management

1 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. Psalm 24:1-2 NIV

It was You, God!

Stewardship: The OG

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. Genesis 2:15

Stewardship: Today

Time

12 So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom. Psalm 90:12

- Our days are numbered and are a gift to be used for things of eternal value.

Talents

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace 1 Peter 4:10

- Every skill is a gift to serve the Kingdom and the world.

Treasure

7 Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

- Our finances, possessions, and assets don't go with us. They are already His.

The Gospel:

19 And he did not permit him but said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” Mark 5:19

25 He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." John 9:25

- We are entrusted with the "mysteries of God"—the truth of the Good News.

Creation:

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Genesis 2:15

- The environment and the physical world around us.

Relationships:

23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Proverbs 4:23

17 Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

9 Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! 11 Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? 12 And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

- Our roles as parents, friends, and neighbors are treasures from God.

Stewardship: The Goal

21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' Matthew 25:21

Following God begins with love for Him, requires a leap of faith, and then we must follow...Him and His commands. How will they describe your faith and love?

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – It's hard be selfish with something that isn't yours. How does this perspective shift your thinking about returning God your time, talent, treasure, faith, relationships, and more?

Tuesday – Time, talent, and treasure (as we define it) had no value in the Garden. Why? Why do we place so much value on them today?

Wednesday – God values you. His presence is the most valuable thing. How and why?

Thursday – Of time, talent, treasure, Gospel, creation, and relationships. Which do you guard the most? Which are you the most selfish/cling to the most? Why?

Friday – The ultimate goal of all our actions is to hear a loving God and Father say, "Well done good and faithful". How can this goal motivate all of your decisions and generosity?