

February 26, 2023
Kryptonite: Week 8

Our series is based around the fictional character of Superman.

There was one thing that could stop him... Kryptonite.

The longer he was exposed to it, the weaker he became, even to the point of death.

The QUESTION we've been answering in this series is: What's your Kryptonite?

We are concluding eight weeks where we've talked about different forms of Kryptonite that a lot of people struggle with at different points in their lives.

But SOME said, "I don't struggle with any of those issues. What do you have for me?"

Question: Anyone ever had struggles with MONEY?

I want to expand this today to the bigger issue of STEWARDSHIP.

A Steward is a MANAGER!

When you go to a larger hotel, you might give your bags to a steward who takes them to your room. They are not his bags, you've entrusted your bags and their safekeeping to him for a short period of time.

The foundational principle of Stewardship today is that God is the owner of everything.

Psalms 24:1 (NIV)

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

I. As a STEWARD, I have a Divine Responsibility

If God is the owner, then I am entrusted with His property. I must learn to think, live and act on His account.

If I believe that I am the Owner, then I am constantly going to be in CONFLICT with God over what I do with the things that I possess.

II. As the STEWARD, I will one day give an Account

I am held accountable to God because He, as the Owner, has expectations of me, the manager!

The Owner has complete right to a full disclosure of what's been done with His Giftings.

Romans 14:12 (NIV)

So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

Sample Checklist:

A. Ourselves

1 Corinthians 4:2 (KJV)

Moreover it is required in Stewards, that a man be found Faithful.

The Owner will check our Faithfulness.

B. Our Possessions

He will also hold me accountable for what I've done with the things He has entrusted to me.

Several of Jesus' parables were of a master who entrusted his possessions to several servants while he went on a far away trip.

C. Our Time

Ephesians 5:15-17 (HCSB)

Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk - not as unwise people but as wise - making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

D. Our Talents

The owner will examine what we have done with the gifts and abilities He gave to us.

1 Peter 4:10 (KJV)

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good Stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Don't be mistaken. God has high expectations that I will serve Him well, grow, think, care, and love like He does. We will be accountable for all these things and how we used them.

III. What is our METHOD of Stewardship?

Whether it's our Money, Time, Talent, Possessions, Giftings, there's a Right way to Steward, and there can be a Wrong way to Steward!

The Bible says this is how to GIVE all of these things:

A. Abundantly

David said, "But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? For everything comes from You, and we have given You only what comes from Your own hand." (1 Chronicles 29:14 (NIV))

B. Sacrificially

2 Corinthians 8, Paul tells of Macedonian Christians and their sacrificial giving.

Question: How could they give so generously while in extreme poverty?

C. Joyfully- 2 Corinthians 9:7

The Bible says that "God loves a cheerful giver".

Joyful giving is a sign that the givers understand the owner-manager relationship. God loves a cheerful giver because such givers are investing in heaven, which reaps eternal dividends!

When the tabernacle was being built in the Old Testament, people got so caught up in the joy of their heavenly investments that they had to be 'restrained' from giving more.

Exodus 36:4-7

Moses basically had to get up and cry out, 'Enough already!'

How many know we're not taking anything with us, and when we see Jesus, we're going to give an Account.