

STEWARD OF THE KING—WEEK 1

Genesis 1-3

January 7, 2024

1. Introduction

- a. Welcome—Guests
- b. Mission & Vision
- c. Series—Steward of the King: God’s Resources in Your Hands

i. God’s Resources

1. **Psalm 24:1.** The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

ii. In Your Hands

1. **1 Peter 4:10.** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.
2. 1 Corinthians 4:7. What do you have that you did not receive? Nothing! Everything we have is a gift.

iii. God’s Resources in Your Hands = Time, Talent & Treasure

1. Early examples come from mid-1800s. Story of a Presbyterian minister (1848) who invested his time, talent, treasure and life to see people come to faith in Jesus.
2. Helpful framework for understanding stewardship

- a. How do you steward the time with which you've been entrusted?
 - b. How do you steward the talents (abilities) with which you've been entrusted?
 - c. How do you steward the treasure (money & material goods) with which you've been entrusted?
- iv. Series will cover stewardship using the three T's from creation to consummation—Genesis to Revelation.

2. God's Ownership

- a. The God Who Gives, Kelly Kopic
- b. God owns everything because he created everything. The world teaches us to reject his ownership, but we wind up being owned by whatever we serve. More later.
- c. God owns by giving (p29).
 - i. **“While we often associate the idea of “ownership” with locks and keys, safe deposit boxes, bank accounts, and home security systems, God’s ownership is fundamentally different. Unlike us, God does not own by keeping, but by giving.” Kelly Kopic, The God Who Gives**
- d. Everything we have—creation itself—is a gift for us to steward. Our stewardship should be a reflection of his ownership. It should be an exercise in giving rather than taking or keeping.

3. Our Stewardship

- a. We have more bad examples than good
 - i. Prince John (Robin Hood)
 - 1. **Pic 1**—greedy & selfish—rob poor, feed rich—taking
 - 2. **Pic 2**—demise
 - ii. Denethor (Lord of the Rings)
 - 1. **Pic 1**—self-protecting—can't fight Sauron—keeping
 - 2. **Pic 2**—demise

4. Humanity's Stewardship from the Beginning

a. Commission

- i. **Genesis 1:28-2:3.** God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

1. God's Time

- a. God created time and acted in it
- b. 6 Days of Work, 1 Day of Rest (Ex. 20:8-11)

2. God's Talent

- a. Ability to create a very good world—"vast array"

3. God's Treasure

- a. Everything—because he made it!
- b. He created out of freedom, not need
- c. He created out of love
- d. He created out of generosity—to fill all things with his glory.
- e. God creates an empty space and then he fills it.

- ii. **Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17.** Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. . . . The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

1. Man & Woman's Time

- a. 6+1?

2. Man & Woman's Talent

a. Likeness of God

- i. Ability to rule over God's creation
- ii. Ability to work & care for the garden
- iii. Ability to creatively name the animals

3. Man & Woman's Treasure

- a. All the resources in the world!
- b. With one limit—not the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

5. Another Bad Example

- a. **Genesis 3:6.** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.
- b. Adam & Eve took their commission beyond its limits. They chose to take more treasure for themselves rather than steward the resources God gave them for the purpose he gave them.
- c. Their stewardship didn't reflect God's ownership. Rather than giving from the abundance God had given them, they took more for themselves. Their stewardship was characterized by taking rather than giving—like Prince John & Denethor (modern examples of original sin).
 - i. **Pic 1**—deceived & self-serving—taking
 - ii. **Pic 2**—demise

6. God Redeems Stewardship through Jesus

- a. God's first stewards failed, but God didn't give up and take back his gift. He remains committed to filling all things with his glory through the stewards he created—you and me!
- b. The story of stewardship continues through the Bible, and we'll see the next chapter next week.
- c. Ultimately, the God who owns by giving gave us himself. Jesus received the punishment an unfaithful steward deserves, and to all who seek forgiveness and follow his ways, he will transform into a faithful steward who will do God's work for eternity. That's what we remember at communion.
- d. For today—Our stewardship should be a reflection of God's ownership. God owns by giving—out of freedom, love & desire to share his glory. Not taking, not keeping. God calls us to follow his own example through exceptional generosity with our time, talent & treasure.
- e. Invitation to Communion