

STEWARD OF THE KING—WEEK 2

Matthew 13:44

January 21, 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. Series will cover stewardship using the three T’s from creation to consummation—Genesis to Revelation.

iv. Week One—**Our stewardship should reflect God’s ownership.**

- 1. He owns by giving—out of freedom, love & generosity. Not by taking or keeping.

- v. Week Two: Restoring stewardship in a fallen world: Part 1—OT
 - 1. **God’s people must grow from students to stewards.** Sabbath, Skilled Labor, Tithes & Offerings
 - 2. Often we fail to mature from student to steward of the learning we receive, and that’s to our detriment.
 - 3. On the other hand, sometimes we go beyond it. People who make an impact in this world, and in God’s kingdom, are people who move from being students—doing what they were required to do—to stewards—applying the principles of their training without it having to be required of them.

- vi. Today: Restoring stewardship in a fallen world: Part 2—Gospels.

2. Time—observations of Jesus & his disciples

a. Sabbath in the Gospels

- i. Jesus and his followers observed the Sabbath.
 - 1. Jesus taught routinely on the Sabbath.
 - 2. The women who prepared his burial rites “rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment” (Luke 23:56).

- ii. Jesus insisted on the spirit of the Sabbath versus the letter of the law.
 - 1. When challenged about picking grain on the Sabbath, Jesus said, “the Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27).
 - 2. When challenged about healing a man’s hand on the Sabbath, Jesus insisted it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath.

b. Prayer

- i. **Luke 5:16.** But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

c. Rhythm of Work & Rest

- i. **Mark 6:30-31.** The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”
- ii. Rule of Life—**Seven Practices [GRAPHIC]**—Core Groups: Work, Feb 18

d. Urgency (Last Days)

- i. **Mark 1:15.** “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”
- ii. Luke 13:33. I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

3. Talent

- a. We can observe the skills of the apostles: fishing, accounting, leadership.
- b. Parables about faithfully working as a steward in God's kingdom.
 - i. Matthew 25:14-30. Parable of the Talents. 20 years of a laborer's wages—5, 2, 1. Two stewards "put the money to work" and were rewarded. One steward buried the treasure and was condemned as being wicked and lazy.

4. Treasure (The Treasure Principle, Randy Alcorn)

- a. Jesus said more about treasure—money, possessions—than about heaven and hell combined!
- b. STORY. Alcorn opens his book with a story about a Jew traveling through a field.
- c. **Matthew 13:44.** The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.
 - i. **In this parable Jesus is appealing to what we *do* value—temporary, earthly treasure—in order to make an analogy about what we *should* value—eternal, heavenly treasure. . . . Any earthly treasure we part with to obtain that far greater treasure is well worth the exchange. Randy Alcorn, *The Treasure Principle***

- ii. The parable illustrates Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:19-21.
- d. **Matthew 6:19-21.** Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
- i. Don't store up treasure on earth.
 - 1. Three assumptions:
 - a. Do not store up excess wealth on earth, beyond what is prudent for yourself and your loved ones.
 - b. Do not store up all your wealth on earth so that your heart is focused only here.
 - c. Wise investment is good. See the parable of the talents.
 - 2. The problem with earthly treasure is not that it's bad; it's that it won't last.
 - a. Proverbs 23:5. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.
 - 3. Alcorn. When Jesus warns us not to store up treasures on Earth, it's not because wealth *might* be lost; it's because wealth will *always* be lost. Either it leaves us while we live, or we leave it when we die. No exceptions.
 - a. **Psalm 49:16-17.** Do not be overawed when others grow rich, when the splendor of their houses

increases; for they will take nothing with them when they die, their splendor will not descend with them.

4. First part of the treasure principle = Don't store up too much earthly treasure because you can't take it with you. Your money is worth something right now in the world's economy, but soon it's going to be worthless to you if you leave it invested here.
 - a. EXAMPLE. Confederate currency at the end of the Civil War.
 - b. EXAMPLE. Jesus' stock tip. Sell your stock that's about to tank and move your investment somewhere that it will be more secure.
 - c. What about an inheritance for a family? Some money is good, but too much is too much.

ii. Store up treasure in heaven.

1. Jesus wants us to store up treasure—in the place where it will do us the most good. Where it will last.
2. It's in our best interest to invest in eternity.
 - a. Alcorn. The man who finds the buried treasure pays a high price now by giving up all he has—but soon he'll gain a magnificent treasure. As long as his eyes are on that treasure, he makes short-term sacrifices with joy.
3. What are heavenly treasures?

a. **Matthew 19:28-29.** Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

i. Authority

1. 12 Thrones

2. Also Luke 19. Parable of Ten Minas. A man gave his servants 2 ½ years wages and said put this to work while I’m gone. 10-fold return gained the response: “you have been trustworthy in a small matter, take charge of ten cities.” 5-fold = five cities. No return = minas taken away and given to 10.

ii. Possessions

1. A hundred times as much!

iii. Eternal life with Jesus

1. John 11:25. I am the resurrection and the life.

2. John 14:6. I am the way, the truth, and the life.

3. Philippians 3:8. I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ.
4. **Philippians 3:12b-14.** I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

4. How do we store up treasure in heaven?

- a. **Matthew 19:21b.** Jesus said to a rich man, “go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”
 - b. *According to Jesus, we gain treasure in heaven by giving treasure on earth.* By stewarding God’s resources in the way he exercises his ownership.
 - i. Following the principles in the OT: giving to the work & worship God in the world and giving to those in need.
 - c. The Treasure Principle: **You can’t take it with you, but you can send it ahead.**
- iii. Your heart follows your treasure.

1. Jesus said, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

a. Where is your heart?

i. You can tell where your heart is by how you spend your time, what you spend your best efforts on, and where your money goes.

5. Invitation