

Not Mine, Just Managed

Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

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

Introduction

One of the greatest misunderstandings in our spiritual lives is this idea that what we have belongs to us.

A TOMBSTONE contains a date of birth, date of death, and a dash. Above these things is the name of the deceased and below, usually, will be some kind of statement. The main part of the tombstone is the dash. It is all about the dash because the dash is talking about what happened while that person was here on earth.

When we meet God, He is going to want to discuss the dash. He is going to want to know what we did do that served His eternal purposes.

My money. My time. My family. My plans.

But Scripture confronts that thinking head-on.

God doesn’t rent the world—He owns it.

When we forget who owns it, we misuse what we’ve been given.

Today’s truth is simple but life-changing: **Not mine—just managed.**

1. God Is the Owner of Everything

Psalm 24:1 (NIV)

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it...”

God is not a silent partner—He is the **Owner**.

Haggai 2:8 (NIV)

“‘The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the Lord Almighty.”

Everything originates with Him and belongs to Him.

Deuteronomy 10:14 (NIV)

“To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.”

“If God owns it, I don’t get to redefine it.”

Even your next breath belongs to Him.

Acts 17:24–25 (NIV)

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth... He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.”

When we forget who owns it, we misuse what we’ve been given.

2. We Are Stewards, Not Owners

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

A steward is someone **entrusted** with what belongs to another.

Psalm 8:6 (NIV)

“You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet.”

Authority does not equal ownership—it equals responsibility.

Luke 16:10–11 (NIV)

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much... So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?”

Say this slowly:

“How I manage today affects what God entrusts tomorrow.”

God isn’t looking for impressive managers—

He’s looking for faithful ones.

3. Stewardship Reveals the Heart

Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This is not a money issue—it’s a **lordship issue**.

Luke 16:13 (NIV)

“No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money.”

Say it clearly: **This is a heart check, not a budget check.**

Proverbs 3:9 (NIV)

“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.”

What we hold tightly reveals what holds us.

My spending shows my serving. My priorities reveal my trust.

4. Faithful Management Leads to Eternal Reward

Matthew 25:21 (NIV)

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

God rewards **faithfulness**, not visibility

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Colossians 3:23–24 (NIV)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord... It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

Faithfulness in private leads to reward in eternity.

Application: Living Like a Steward

1 Peter 5:6–7 (NIV)

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand... Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”

Stewardship lifts pressure. Ownership creates anxiety.

When God owns it, He sustains it.

We pray over what we manage. We give generously. We serve faithfully. We plan with eternity in mind.

Say it with me: **Not mine—just managed.**

Conclusion

Nothing you have is accidental. Nothing you manage is random.

James 1:17 (NIV)

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights...”