

Parables: Showing the Way of Jesus

The Way of Stewardship

Luke 12:13-21

This summer sermon series we have journeyed through some of the parables of Jesus, showing us the Way of Jesus! We've seen that the way of Jesus is a Way of Receptivity, Obedience, Mercy, Forgiveness, Humility, and Grace. Today's message we learn what Good Stewardship is and the way to achieve it.

The Way of Stewardship: A Few Principles that This Parable is Built On

- **It All Belongs to God:** Psalm 24:1, Deuteronomy 8:18, Haggai 2:8
- **We are Managers of God's Stuff:** Genesis 2:15, 1 Corinthians 4:2
- **God Directs His Managers:** 2 Cor 9:6-7, Malachi 3:10, Matthew 6:24-27
 - **Acquire Honestly:** Proverbs 13:11, Ephesians 2:18
 - **Give Generously:** Proverbs 11:25, 2 Corinthians 9:11
 - **Save Thoughtfully:** Proverbs 6:6-8, 1 Corinthians 16:2
 - **Spend Wisely:** Luke 14:27, Ecclesiastes 5:10
 - **Enjoy the Blessings of Being a Manager:** 1 Timothy 6:17-19

"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life." **1 Timothy 6:17-19**

This parable of Jesus is built on the framework of the principles above and further explains what it looks like to be a Steward of that which belongs to God.

Main Idea: The Way of Jesus Calls for Embracing the Role of a Steward

*"Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' But he said to him, 'Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?' 15 And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.' 16 And he told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.'" **Luke 12:13-21***

Two different angles on stewardship from Luke 12:13-21

I. What's Mine is Mine, I'm Going to Hoard It for Myself!

Common for Rabbis to mediate family disputes, but Jesus doesn't get drawn into it. The problem wasn't an application of the Torah, but it was the heart condition of the brothers that led to the dispute in the first place. So, Jesus confronted their greed & covetousness.

Covetousness: Insatiable desire to possess that which does not belong to you. It means I'm never satisfied, no matter how much I have. I will always want more. It's very close to idolatry, greed, and is the opposite of faith and contentment.

"Money is like sea-water; the more we drink the thirstier we become." **Roman Prov.**

Greed & Covetousness have led to 21 million Americans getting scammed from various outlets in modern day. Getting rich quickly has led to hurt victims by greedy hearts.

*"And he said to them, 'Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.'" **Luke 12:15***

*"And he told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man produced plentifully, & he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" **Luke 12:16-19***

Consider this: Have you ever thought 'I wish I had his problems', it might be an indicator that you're not 'on guard' against covetousness.

*"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?'" **Luke 12:20***

*"Jesus did not see the farmer enjoying life; He saw him facing death!" **W. Wiersbe***

"Riches have one major weakness. They have no purchasing power after death." **Trent C. Butler**

*"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." **Matthew 6:24***

A good steward recognizes that God's blessings are not only for ourselves. We are blessed to BE a blessing!

Main Idea: The Way of Jesus Calls for Embracing the Role of a Steward

II. What's Mine is God's, I'm Going to Manage It for His Glory!

The Way of Jesus Confronts Greed and Covetousness head on to offer a better way.

*"But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.'" **Luke 12:20-21***

*"God will require our souls of us, and we must give an account for how we lived. The people who defined life by what they possessed and enjoyed will be called fools! It is foolish to think our lives will not end. It is foolish to think our lives are defined by what we have. There is a way to be rich toward ourselves and stingy toward God, and God calls that foolish." **Thabiti Anyabwile***

When we hoard what God provides, not only is it foolish for eternity but it also prevents us from living the abundant life that only generous giving allows.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” **Matthew 6:19-21**

Main Idea: The Way of Jesus Calls for Embracing the Role of a Steward

Jesus not only taught this principle of stewardship, he lived it & died for it. If anyone had the right to hoard privileges, wealth, status, luxury or comfort, but instead...

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” **Philippians 2:5-8**

Surrender to Christ in Salvation and Sacrificial Stewardship of Life.

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- **CSB Study Bible** – Trevin Wax, Ed. (2017)
- **Exalting Jesus in Luke** – Thabiti Anyabwile (2018)
- **Bible Exposition Commentary** – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- **New American Commentary: Luke** – Robert H. Stein (1992)
- **The Gospel of Luke** – William Barclay (1976)
- **Spurgeon Study Bible** – C.H. Spurgeon (2017)
- **Tony Evans Study Bible** – Tony Evans (2019)
- **Holeman NT Commentary: Luke** – Trent C. Butler (2000)