

## **LESSON 11**

# **THE BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP**

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

**(1 Peter 4:10)**

# LESSON 11. BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

## CONCEPT OF THE PICTURE

1. **Kneeling person at top left** ..... A good steward first receives from God.
2. **Person managing pots of treasure** ..... A good steward manages what is given to him by God.
3. **Person in center and crown symbol on pots** A good steward knows who has the right of ownership.
4. **7 Pots of Treasure** ..... There are seven pots of treasure that must be managed by a good steward.
  - (1) **Heart symbol** ..... the Spirit
  - (2) **Brain symbol** ..... the Intellect
  - (3) **Athlete symbol** ..... the Body
  - (4) **Gold Coin symbol** ..... Wealth
  - (5) **Bible symbol** ..... the Gospel
  - (6) **Mouth symbol** ..... Words
  - (7) **Clock symbol** ..... Time
5. **Person in vision** ..... A good steward imagines the joy of windup.
  - (1) **Towel being given** ..... Greater service
  - (2) **Fruit basket** ..... Rapid response to prayer
  - (3) **Crown** ..... Praise from God

# LESSON 11. BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

## INTRODUCTION

Let's study the meaning of the word stewardship as it is portrayed in the Bible.

### **1. A good steward first receives from God.**

The model for Biblical stewardship is Joseph, who appears in the Book of Genesis 39:4-6.

There are 4 factors to consider:

- A faithful steward
- A sovereign master
- Authority given to steward by the master
- Final accounting to be given.

When we think of stewardship, we may associate it mainly with giving, but you must first receive from God.

You may feel that to be passive is to be more spiritual, but understand and accept that to be fulfilled in various aspects is the first step to being a good steward.

### **2. A good steward manages what is entrusted to him by God.**

What comes after receiving is good management.

Jesus teaches with clarity what a good steward is in the parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). This story holds the secret to being freed from feelings of inferiority and living a rich life.

- Each person has different capabilities.
- Even 1 Talent (the smallest amount) is worth an impressive amount (1 Talent is 6000 Denarii, in other words 16 years worth of pay).
- What is important is how much of your talent you use, and not the comparison with others.

### **3. A good steward knows who has the right of ownership.**

Everything on this earth belongs to God.

Your body, life, and possessions all belong to God. Once you realize that you do not have the right of ownership, the way you live will change.

When you borrow a book from someone, you read it with utmost care. I have lost photographs that I borrowed for TV production. The first time I just had to ask for forgiveness, and another time I was able to find the photographs later and was able to return them.

In this way, everything we have, we are temporarily borrowing from God.

### **4. There are seven treasures that must be managed by a good steward**

Here, we are going to focus on the 7 especially important treasures:

#### **(1) The Spirit (heart)**

The inner part of a person is difficult to see from the outside, and we might not think of it seriously or think that it is beyond management. But that is not the case. Remember Section 5: to be an infant. A newborn life must be nurtured.

Remember that the failure to be faithful comes from a lack of management of the inner-self, and practice the spiritual breathing (the Lord's prayer) that you learned in section 5.

#### **(2) The Intellect**

Faith and intellect do not oppose one another. Having a simple faith is not being ignorant. In order to have a deeper understanding of the Word of God we must read, enjoy music, acquire the newest information, and be sensitive to world affairs.

The prophets in the Old Testament come from various backgrounds but they shared the following three things in common:

- A deep understanding of the Word of God.
- The recognition of Israel's national mission.
- The ability to understand the times, and speak to it.

It would be great for us to acquire the ability to think in centurial terms as modern prophets.

#### **(3) The Body**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

(Romans 12:1)

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

There is no concept in the Bible that separates man into the body and the spirit. The Hebrew understanding of man sees a person as a whole.

- Nutrition
- Sleep (rest)
- Exercise

#### (4) Wealth

The Christian offering is to recognize that all things came from God, and to pay Him back as a token of appreciation. Tithing was taught in the Old Testament days and in the New Testament days, the teaching was to "give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion" (ref. Malachi 3:8-12, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15).

It is written that the first generation of Christians sold their possessions to help the poor (Acts 4:32-37), but in modern times it is necessary to think about this on a global scale.

#### (5) The Gospel

The duty of a steward is to provide meals as commanded by the master.

To explain the Word is to speak the Bible as it is written. Human problems have not changed since the day of creation, and God's response has not changed either.

- Man is lonesome.
- Man carries the weight of sin.
- Man is afraid of death.

#### (6) Words

Words have the power to create thought and change the situation. God created the entire world with the Word and gave humans the ability to control language. Therefore, the management of words requires utmost care.

"We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check."

(James 3:2)

(7) Time

Time doesn't exist infinitely. Also, time is given equally to all people (24 hours a day).

However, someone may use his time wisely, while another wastes it away. You must also understand that besides physical time, there is mental time. Time is to be created and used wisely.

To see how much time a person spends on which aspects of his life reveals his interests. Biblical priority in life is as follows:

- God
- Family
- Church
- Work

## **5. A good steward imagines the joy of the final accounting.**

We must live our lives while considering the final accounting to be given in front of God. This accounting is a concept that reminds us of the end of days, but it is also something that is happening continually every day. A good steward receives blessings such as the following:

(1) Greater devotion

God gives generously. Once you understand that God gives us more than we give Him, your doubts about offerings and devotion will be taken away.

(2) Rapid response to prayer

God will listen to the prayer of a dedicated servant (1 John 3:17-22)

(3) Praise from God

"Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21) is the voice of God that recognizes the meaningfulness of our lives.