

Sermon Notes: Stewardship of Time

May 5, 2024

Stewardship: the careful and responsible management or administration of something entrusted to one's care.

A steward was seen as a servant whom the master left to care for everything that the master owned. A good steward would do this with the same degree of care and affection as the master.

Since the beginning of time, God has chosen man and woman to be stewards over his whole creation.

“Fundamentally, stewardship is about exercising our God-given dominion over His creation, reflecting the image of our creator God in His care, responsibility, maintenance, protection, and beautification of His creation.-- R.C. Sproul”

What is your response to the thought that God has given us the responsibility to care for his creation, his people, animals, earth, everything that He has given us, our lives, wealth, health, families, etc?

How have you been exercising this charge and responsibility?

What are the effects sin has had over this charge? In what ways has your sin affected the way you have acted in our role as steward?

Stewards of the Gospel:

1 Corinthians 4:1 “**1** This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. **2** Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.”

After Jesus commissioned His disciples to spread the Gospel message, our charge as stewards was added with another layer of responsibility. Now we have been given the message of Jesus to share with Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the rest of the Earth.

With this role of steward in its fullness in mind, does this charge affect at all the way you manage your **time**?

Luke 12:1-46

Before Jesus speaks directly about the good and poor steward, Jesus goes through a series of parables that address 6 heart conditions that may come in the way of stewarding well. (Read through Luke 12:1-40)

Journey of one's heart posture towards Jesus as our Lord:

Warnings from Christ in chapter 12:

- Beware of hypocrisy: what happens behind closed doors, the teachings and lives of the pharisees
 - These religious leaders have the appearance of one who has dedicated all their time, their livelihood, for the things of the Lord
 - They are known to be focused on displaying their faith, having all their ducks in a row, following every law but disregard the heart of God, which is taking care of His creation
 - “**3** Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed on the housetops.” Jesus reminds the audience, that although on the outside we may seem to be filled with fruit, the truth will be unveiled.
 - How may a life of hypocrisy affect the way you make decisions regarding the use of your time?
 - “If a tree produces bad apples year after year, there is something drastically wrong with its system, down to its very roots. I won’t solve the problem by stapling new apples onto the branches. They also will rot because they are not attached to a life-giving root system. And next spring, I will have the same problem again. I will not see a new crop of healthy apples because my solution has not gone to the heart of the problem. If the tree’s roots remain unchanged, it will never produce good apples.” Paul Tripp

- Do not fear man: do not act or react to the dealings of man in fear of death, God is powerful above them and His power can bring eternal damnation (against the threats of the Pharisees). God has the authority to give and take life, *because they belong to Him*.
 - The passage ends with reminding us that there is no other that can love us more than Him, He knows every hair on our heads
 - Who is the Lord of your life? Is it the ‘pharisees’ or is Jesus?

- Does the fear of how you may be 'condemned' by the world affect the way you use your time?
- Do you tend to choose things other than 'stewarding' God's things in order to protect yourself from the world?
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- Beware of denying Christ: be ready to proclaim faith in Jesus in public, do not deny Him in fear of authorities or being seen, for these times will come and Holy Spirit will empower you
 - Does the fear of 'persecution' dictate how and when you proclaim your faith or the opportunities you may take to share the Gospel with others?
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- Beware of covetousness: be careful in seeking a life of comfortability, stability and abundance in what the world can provide for you. Do not find security in your 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."
 - Does building up an inheritance for yourself or financial security take up most of your mental and physical time?
- Warnings against anxiety: Let your daily concerns be led by seeking the Kingdom, not just your needs. Fill your bags with heavenly investments for what you build up is what is in your heart.
 - **29** And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. **30** For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. **31** Instead, seek his^g kingdom, and these things will be added to you. **32** "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33** Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. **34** For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
 - Does this challenge you? How much do you allow anxiety to rule over your life and how you spend most of your days?

- Do not 'fall asleep': be aware, and expectant of time
 - Ephesians 5: 14 "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **18** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, **19** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, **20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Luke 12:41-46

41 Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" **42** And the Lord said, "Who then is the **faithful and wise manager**, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? **43** Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. **44** Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. **45** But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, **46** the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.

- Faithful and wise manager: steward
 - Given authority over the master's dealings, property, and people to care for
 - Blessed is he who is found doing the duties of a steward
 - He will have even more responsibility: set him over all of master's possessions
 - His motivations are not to 'get more', it is to be faithful to his master; the heart of the servant is important here
 - How is a good steward's time used?
 - **1 Peter:4** Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. **2** As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. **3** For you have spent enough time in the past doing what

pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry...**7** The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. **8** Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. **9** Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. **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.

- Unfaithful servant:
 - Doesn't live with expectancy of master's return
 - Mistreats those he has been entrusted
 - Lives for himself, in self-indulgence
 - Verse 47: knew his master's will but didn't do it
- Master
 - Will come on a day that is not expected
 - Cursed will be the servant who is found spending his time mistreating that which the Lord has entrusted, but is using their time wastefully for his own good

How does this parable help you understand the importance of stewarding what God has given his sons and daughters well?