

WE ARE STEWARDS OF GOD'S BLESSINGS

Matthew 24:45-51

INTRODUCTION

- A. In our text – “ruler” – Strong’s G2525 καθίστανω, καθίστημι [*kathistemi* /kath·is·tay·mee/] “1 to set, place, put. 1A to set one over a thing (in charge of it). 1B to appoint one to administer an office. 1C to set down as, constitute, to declare, show to be. 1D to constitute, to render, make, cause to be. 1E to conduct or bring to a certain place. 1F to show or exhibit one’s self. 1F1 come forward as. Cf. Acts 6:3. (Deacons Work – Need Help).
- B. Vine: “1. *oikonomos* (οἰκονόμος, Strong’s G3623) primarily denoted “the manager of a household or estate” (*oikos*, “a house,” *nemo*, “to arrange”). Strong’s G3623 οἰκονόμος [*oikonomos* /oy·kon·om·os/] “1 the manager of household or of household affairs. 1A esp. a steward, manager, superintendent (whether free-born or as was usually the case, a freed-man or a slave) to whom the head of the house or proprietor has intrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children not yet of age. 1B the manager of a farm or landed estate, an overseer. 1C the superintendent of the city’s finances, the treasurer of a city (or of treasurers or quaestors of kings). 2 metaph. the apostles and other Christian teachers and bishops and overseers.” (Luke 12:42; 16:1, 3, 8; Romans 16:3; 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2; Galatians 4:2; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 4:10).
1. He oversees and administers the affairs of his Master for the Master’s benefit.
 2. He is answerable to his Master, **Romans 14:4, 12.**
 3. His work either honors or dishonors his Master (**Genesis 39:2-9**).
- C. We must see ourselves as stewards of God who has appointed us over His goods (earth, but also spiritual blessings in Christ).
- I. THE MASTER’S APPOINTMENT, **Matthew 25:14-15; Mark 13:34.**
- A. Every Christian is a Steward in God’s House (has an appointment from the Lord to be a steward), **Romans 12:3-8.** Elders (**Titus 1:7**); Preachers (**1 Corinthians 9:16-17**); Saints (**1 Peter 4:10**).
- B. Crucial Elements of Our Stewardship of God’s Blessings, **Matthew 24:45-51.**
1. We are under His authority, **Mark 13:34** (**Matthew 28:18; Colossians 3:17**).
 2. We are given work to do, **Mark 13:34** (**Ephesians 2:10**).
 3. We are expected to use what we have been given to bless the Master, **Matthew 25:15-17; 1 Pet 4:10-11.**
 - a. Talents are usually seen as opportunities to enhance/bless ourselves (fame, money, power...).
 - b. Christian uses talents given by Lord for the Lord, **Galatians 2:20.**
 4. We must honor God who has blessed us with His goods by being thankful for and faithful with His blessings, **2 Timothy 2:20-21.**
 - a. By failing to be thankful we will (1) take blessings for granted, (2) not use them to their full extent, and (3) begin to believe we are the ones responsible for our advantages, progress and blessings (forget God), **Matthew 24:48-51.**
 - b. God has enriched us “for all liberality” – causes thanksgiving! **2 Corinthians 9:6-11** (cf. **1 Timothy 1:12**); **Psalms 34:1-3.**
 5. We must be faithful, **1 Corinthians 4:2.**
- II. THE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TIME. **Eph 5:16**
- A. We all Want More Time, yet we Often Waste the Time we Have. (cf. AT&T Rollover minutes commercial) **Luke 10:38-42.**
1. Want more time to do our work, meet our obligations, achieve our goals, etc. Time management is important to accomplish the Lord’s work, **John 9:4; Matthew 24:48.**
 2. At the end of life, time is the one thing we want more of, **Psalm 90:10, 12.**
 3. Rejoice in the time you have and use it to honor God, **Psalm 90:13-17.**
 4. Buy up (use) your opportunities now! **2 Corinthians 6:2**

- III. THE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR POSSESSIONS, 1 Timothy 6:17-19.
- A. How we Use our Possessions Shows whether we Value our Stewardship.
 - 1. Manage our money to live within our means, Romans 13:8.
 - 2. Pay our taxes and help others, Romans 13:7; Ephesians 4:28.
 - 3. Give as we have prospered, 1 Corinthians 16:2.
 - B. Compels us to Give, 6:18 (Acts 20:35). The measure we use will be used back to us, Luke 6:38.
 - 1. Measure of generosity, 2 Corinthians 9:6.
 - 2. Measure of humble giving, Mark 12:41-44.
 - 3. Measure of dutiful care of our family, 1 Timothy 5:4, 8, 16.
- IV. THE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR PHYSICAL HEALTH, 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.
- A. Physical Health, though Temporary, is a Blessing from God.
 - 1. Something we often neglect until we no longer have it.
 - 2. Body is to be used to glorify God, 1 Corinthians 6:15-20.
 - a. Do not defile it with immorality, 6:18.
 - b. Do not defile it by conduct that destroys it (smoking, drug abuse, alcohol use) – Use self control, Galatians 5:23.
 - B. Taking Care of your Health will Likely Give You More Opportunities to Serve the Lord.
 - 1. Strength for daily responsibilities in family, neighbors, etc.
 - 2. Strength to serve others, 1 Peter 4:11.
 - 3. Even if you are not in good health you are a steward of the health you do have, cf. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. Paul did not decide to forget about his health; he decided to trust and serve the Lord even when he was weak! He would “live for Christ” (Philippians 1:21).

CONCLUSION

- A. Lord will return and we will give account of how we used His goods/blessings. Prepare by the wise use of your blessings, Matthew 24:50.
- B. Be thankful, useful to the Master, diligent and faithful.