

Reaching New Heights The Foundation of Stewardship

1 Corinthians 4:2 - *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

“steward” - oikonomenos

oikos – house

menos – participial ending, used in this case as a noun

literally “housing one”

Four Key Principles of Stewardship:

1. God owns everything, you own nothing.
2. God entrusts you with everything you have.
3. You can either increase or diminish what God has given you; God wants you to increase it.
4. You can be called into account at any time, and it may be today.

Principle – The foundation of stewardship is a growing love for the Son.

5 characteristics of stewards who honor the Owner’s Son:

I. Good Stewards are Appreciative of God’s Provision

A. The historical context

Hebrews 11:37-38 - They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

B. An important emphasis in this parable

C. An important basis of stewardship

Romans 2:4 - the goodness of God leads to repentance.

D. Even when the master is gone

v. 1 - and went on a journey

II. Good Stewards are Responsive to God’s Expectations

A. The owner rightly expected a return on his investment

B. God made us part of His family for a reason

John 15:16 - *You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.*

III. Good Stewards are Amazed by God's Patience

A. The shocking behavior of the vinegrowers

1. They beat the first slave and sent him away empty-handed
2. They wounded the second slave in the head and treated him shamefully
3. They killed the third slave
4. With many others, beat some and killed others

Martin Luther – “If I were God, and the world had treated me as it treated him, I would kick the wretched thing to pieces.”

B. The unusual patience of the owner

Psalm 86:15 - *But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.*

Mark 12:6 - *He had one more to send, a beloved son; he sent him last of all to them, saying, they will respect my son.*

C.H. Spurgeon – “If you reject Him, He answers you with tears; if you wound Him, He bleeds out cleansing; if you kill Him, He dies to redeem; if you bury Him, He rises again to bring resurrection. Jesus is love made manifest.”

The foundation of stewardship is a growing love for the Son.

C. H. Spurgeon – “You put your finger in the eye of God, when you slight His son.”

Matthew 21:41 - *They said to Him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the proper seasons.”*

IV. Good Stewards are Subdued by God's Judgment

2 Corinthians 5:11 - *Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

V. Good Stewards are Encouraged by God's Triumph