

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

LESSON TWELVE: JESUS – THE PERFECT STEWARD

I. INTRODUCTION

In this course, we have learnt two examples: 1) **Joseph** who was a faithful steward, managed Potiphar's household and later as called to be the "Prime Minister" of Egypt under Pharaoh. 2) **Barnabas** who was a generous steward, sold his land and gave the proceeds to support God's works for the blessing of God's people. However, despite their faithfulness and generosity respectively, they are imperfect being men subjected to the limitation and weakness of the flesh. There is only one who is perfect and He is none other than our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the perfect steward. He said to His disciples in John 13:15, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." He is the perfect example of biblical stewardship.

Being the eternal Son of God, equal with God the Father in power and glory, He willingly took upon Himself the form of a servant by being born into this sinful world. He came not to do His own will but the will of the Father who sent Him. Every moment of His earthly life demonstrated flawless stewardship. He perfectly managed every responsibility entrusted to Him by the Father. He perfectly fulfilled His mission, perfectly obeyed God's commands, perfectly served others, and perfectly glorified God.

The life of Jesus Christ on earth serves as the ultimate model for Christian stewardship. As we seek to become faithful stewards of God, there is no greater example to follow than Christ Himself. In this lesson, we will examine four qualities that reveal Jesus as the Perfect Steward: His perfection in obedience, faithfulness, generosity, and submission.

II. JESUS' PERFECT OBEDIENCE

From the beginning of His earthly life as Son of man, Jesus was committed to obeying the Father. At the age of twelve, when His parents found Him in the temple, He declared, "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49). Even as a child, Jesus understood His divine mission and responsibility to fulfill the will of His heavenly Father. John 6:38, "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."

The temptation in the wilderness provides a powerful example of Christ's obedience (see Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13). After fasting for forty days, Satan tempted Him to turn stones into bread. Jesus possessed the power to do so, yet He refused because such an action would have violated the Father's will. Satan then offered Him the kingdoms of the world in exchange for worship. Again, Jesus rejected the temptation and remained obedient to God. Every temptation was met with complete obedience to Scripture and submission to the Father's plan.

The climax of Christ's obedience occurred at the cross of Calvary. Philippians 2:8, "And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Jesus willingly endured betrayal, mockery, scourging, and crucifixion because He was committed to fulfilling the Father's redemptive plan.

Jesus teaches us that true stewardship requires complete obedience. Faithful stewards obey even when the path is difficult. The question for every believer is not, "What do I want?" but "What does God want?" Like Jesus, we must seek to do the Father's will above our own in total obedience.

III. JESUS' PERFECT FAITHFULNESS

A faithful steward completes the task entrusted to him. Jesus perfectly fulfilled every assignment given by the Father. He never abandoned His mission. He never became distracted. He never grew weary of serving. He never failed in His responsibilities. At the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus prayed in John 17:4, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." These words reveal the heart of a faithful steward. His cry, "It is finished" (John 19:30), was a cry of a faithful steward who had successfully completed the Father's work.

Jesus also demonstrated faithfulness in caring for those entrusted to Him. In John 17:12 He declared: "Those that thou gavest me I have kept." He faithfully shepherded His disciples, taught, corrected, prayed and prepared them for future ministry. Every responsibility entrusted to Him was handled perfectly.

Faithfulness matters more than talent. Many people possess great ability but lack faithfulness. God looks for faithful servants. The goal of stewardship is not popularity or success in the world's eyes. The goal is faithfulness. One day believers desire to hear the Master's words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." The Lord Jesus is the supreme example of such faithfulness.

IV. JESUS' PERFECT GENEROSITY

The greatest expression of generosity is found in His willingness to leave heaven and enter a fallen world. 2 Corinthians 8:9, "Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." The Lord Jesus possessed all the riches and glory of heaven, yet He willingly laid aside those privileges to accomplish our salvation.

His entire earthly ministry was marked by generous giving. He gave His time to the needy. He gave His attention to the overlooked. He gave compassion to the brokenhearted. He gave healing to the sick. He gave hope to the discouraged. He gave truth to those living in darkness. Wherever Jesus went, He gave. The feeding of the five thousand reveals His generous heart. When the disciples saw a problem, Jesus saw an opportunity to provide. Rather than sending the crowd away hungry, He multiplied the loaves and fishes and fed thousands. His generosity was not limited to physical needs. He generously shared spiritual blessings. He taught God's truth freely. He welcomed sinners. He forgave the repentant. He extended mercy to the undeserving. Ultimately, Jesus gave the greatest gift possible—His own life. John 10:11, "The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." At Calvary, Jesus held nothing back. He gave Himself completely. No steward has ever demonstrated greater generosity than the Lord.

Stewardship is not ownership. Stewardship is management. Generous stewards recognize that everything belongs to God. Generosity includes: Giving financially. Giving time. Giving encouragement. Giving hospitality. Giving service. Giving forgiveness. Christian stewardship should reflect the generosity of Christ. The more we understand His sacrificial love, the more willing we become to give ourselves for others.

V. JESUS' PERFECT SUBMISSION

Submission is often misunderstood as weakness, yet the Bible presents it as a mark of spiritual maturity and strength. The Lord Jesus perfectly submitted Himself to His Father's authority. Although He was fully God, He willingly embraced the role of a servant. Philippians 2:6-7, "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant."

The King of kings became a servant. The Creator submitted Himself to the Father's plan. This submission is most clearly seen in the Garden of Gethsemane. Knowing the suffering that awaited Him, the Lord Jesus prayed: "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:42). These words reveal the heart of perfect stewardship.

A steward submits his desires to the master's will. Jesus was not forced into submission. He willingly surrendered Himself to the Father's purpose. His submission continued throughout His arrest, trial, and crucifixion. He could have called legions of angels from heaven to consume His enemies. He could have escaped the cross. Yet He submitted Himself fully to God's redemptive plan. Isaiah prophesied of the suffering Servant, "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7).

Submission means trusting God even when we do not understand His plans. It means yielding our ambitions, desires, plans, preferences, future to God's wisdom. True stewardship says "Lord, not my will, but Thine be done." The steward always submits to God and His will because God's plans are always better than his own.

VI. SUMMARY

Jesus Christ is the perfect steward because every aspect of His life reflected complete obedience, faithfulness, generosity, and submission to God the Father. He perfectly obeyed every command. He faithfully completed every mission. He generously gave Himself for others. He willingly submitted to the Father's will, even unto death. No steward in history compares to Him. Jesus alone fulfilled stewardship perfectly.

As stewards of God, our goal in terms of biblical stewardship is not simply to admire Christ's perfect example but to imitate Him. Biblical stewardship is ultimately Christ-centered. The more we conformed to the image of Christ, the more faithful we become as stewards of God's gifts and responsibilities. One day we will stand before Christ and give an account of our stewardship. May the example of Jesus inspire us to live lives marked by obedience, faithfulness, generosity, and submission. And may we serve our Master so faithfully that we hear His commendation "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Amen.