

TRUTH B-P CHURCH
Adult Sunday School

BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

LESSON THIRTEEN: CONCLUSION

I. IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP

Biblical stewardship is the faithful management of everything God has entrusted to us for His glory and purposes. It begins with the recognition that God is the ultimate owner of all things while we are caretakers accountable to Him. It involves using resources wisely, not selfishly, and aligning decisions with God's will as revealed in Scripture. "Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

At its heart, biblical stewardship is an act of worship and service, reflecting a heart transformed by God's grace. It calls for us to live with eternal perspective, conforming our lives in what pleases God rather than earthly pleasures and material indulgence. Ultimately, biblical stewardship is about honoring God and glorifying Him as Lord over every aspect of our life on earth.

II. REVISION

A. Understanding Stewardship Through the Ten Commandments

The Ten Commandments provide the foundation and a comprehensive framework for understanding stewardship. Often viewed merely as moral laws, they are in fact divine instructions that reveal how we are to faithfully manage what God has entrusted to us. Each commandment addresses a different area of life, teaching responsibility, accountability, and reverence toward God.

The Ten Commandments show that stewardship is not limited to external actions but includes the heart, mind, and soul. From worship to relationships, from time to truth, every area of life is entrusted to us by God. He trusts us enough to call us be faithful stewards. Let us not fail Him. Ultimately, stewardship is about honoring God with everything we are and have. When we live with such God-ward perspective, we fulfill our purpose and bring glory to Him who entrusted us with all things.

B. God is the Owner

The foundational truth of biblical stewardship is that God is Owner. The truth that God is Owner is not just a doctrine, but a life-changing reality. It redefines who we are as stewards of God, what we have which is God-entrusted resources, and the reason why we live which is to glorify God. We must remember that we brought nothing into this world and will certainly take nothing out. Everything in between us and God based upon our restored relationship is biblical stewardship.

Let us live with open hands, willing hearts, and faithful lives unto the Lord. May we daily declare: "Lord, everything I have is Thine. Teach me to manage all for Thy glory." And when our time is up and done, may we hear those blessed words from our Saviour when we meet Him face to face: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

C. Redeeming Time

Redeeming the time is a central aspect of biblical stewardship. It reflects a heart that recognizes God's ownership, values eternity, and seeks to live purposefully for Christ's sake. Each day offers opportunities how we may glorify God, grow in grace, and be a blessing to others by ministry and service.

The call to redeem the time is ultimately a call to live with Christ-driven purpose and from biblical perspective. Life may be short, but it is sufficient for God's purposes when used faithfully. Therefore, it is important for us to be committed to this truth that indeed time is a gift from God, and how it must be used all for Him and for His eternal glory.

D. Exercising Spiritual Gifts

Every believer in Christ has been endowed with spiritual gifts by the Holy Spirit, not for personal glory, but for service. These spiritual gifts are not possessions to be hoarded but trusts to be exercised. Therefore, to exercise spiritual gifts faithfully is, in essence, an act of stewardship. 1 Peter 4:10, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

It is our responsibility to discover what spiritual gifts God has blessed us and to use them faithfully according to His will. The failure to use them not only bring shame to God's Name, it deprives others of the blessings God has intended for them. It is therefore important that we exercise our spiritual gifts with God's help for the blessings of others.

E. Managing Resources

Managing resources faithfully is both our responsibility and accountability towards God. To manage the resources God has entrusted to us is not a theoretical issue. It is deeply personal. It affects how we live daily – how we spend, give, save, speak, do, serve, and make decision. As stewards, we are accountable to God. Our decisions how we manage the resources must align with His will as revealed in His infallible, inerrant, inspired and preserved Word.

In life, we may wear many "hats" at home, in school, at work or in church. Whatever positions we hold, whether high or low, we must ensure we manage the resources accordingly and faithfully to the glory of God.

F. Giving Tithes and Offerings

Giving tithes and offerings is about worship, faith, obedience, gratitude, and stewardship. In a world dominated by greed and materialism, faithful Christian stewardship shines as a testimony that God is greater than our earthly wealth. If we are not careful, covetousness and sinful motives can hinder our biblical stewardship. God does not look at the amount of giving but the heart behind that giving. True giving is done cheerfully, sincerely and sacrificially for Jesus' sake.

Giving does serve as a test of our faith. It proves whether our faith in God is genuine or not. When we give in love and obedience, it means we acknowledge God is our Provider and our security is found in Him, not our possession. The more we give, the deeper our faith and stronger dependency upon God. Let us walk by faith, not by sight, giving our all to glorify Him.

G. Giving Alms

Almsgiving is biblical and must be done with the right purpose and attitude. This is part of bearing a good witness for God that others may come to Christ and find salvation in Him. The focus of almsgiving is never the charitable work itself as that will end up promoting the social gospel. The social gospel is no gospel at all because the focus is on how people are being helped physically, emotionally, or mentally overshadowing the spiritual component.

While doing alms, let the true gospel of Jesus Christ be the ultimate focus since all souls without Christ will still end up in hell. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

H. The Parable of the Talents

In this parable, the Lord describes a master who entrusts his goods to his servants before going on a long journey. The servants are given responsibilities according to their abilities. Later, the master returns and asks them to give an account of what they have done to their talents. This parable is to teach our ultimate accountability towards God.

As stewards of God, we are not owners of our lives, resources, time, spiritual gifts, opportunities, possessions, abilities, or responsibilities. It does not matter how much we are given. The key is how faithful we are in utilizing what we are given for God's glory. One day we must stand before Christ and give an account to Him. Will we pass or fail?

I. A Faithful Steward: Joseph

Joseph stands out as a faithful steward of God. His life journey took him from being a favored son to a slave, from a prisoner to a ruler, and from a victim of injustice to a savior of nations. Throughout every stage, Joseph exhibited the qualities of a faithful steward.

Joseph was faithful everywhere and anytime. Many can be faithful when life is easy and comfortable, but Joseph was faithful in both prosperity and adversity. He understood that every responsibility entrusted to him came from God and should be managed in a way that honored God as the sovereign God of all.

J. A Generous Steward: Barnabas

Barnabas stands out as a faithful example of a generous steward of God. His life teaches us lessons that remain relevant today. First, he serves God with what he has been entrusted. Second, he trusted God's provision rather than earthly security. Third, he used his resources to encourage others. Fourth, he sought God's glory rather than human praise.

Earthly resources are temporary. Using them to serve God is eternal. One day we will stand before the Lord and give an account of our stewardship. The question will not be how much we have accumulated and possessed on earth. The question will be how faithful we used what God entrusted to us. Let us choose to be generous like Barnabas and all those who love the Lord, with no holding back.

K. The Perfect Steward: Jesus

The Lord 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. The Lord Jesus alone fulfilled stewardship perfectly in His life.

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 perfect 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 perfect example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ inspire us to live lives marked by obedience, faithfulness, generosity, and submission. And may we serve our Master so perfectly that we hear His commendation "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

III. APPLICATION

Biblical stewardship is the biblical way of life rooted in the recognition of God's ownership and human responsibility. It calls for us who are God's redeemed people to faithfully manage all that we have been given, live with eternal perspective, practice generosity, and remain accountable to God. Through stewardship, we demonstrate our faith in Christ, reflect God's character, and be a faithful witness for Christ in the world.

Ultimately, biblical stewardship is an act of worship. It reflects a heart that acknowledges God's sovereignty and responds with gratitude and obedience. It shifts the focus from a self-centered living to a God-centered living, where every aspect of life is surrendered to His will. May we who are God's people be found faithful as stewards of God when we meet our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ face to face. Amen.