

## ENTRUSTED: As Stewards of Another's Resources

Andy Deane · 1/14/2024 · Matthew 25:14-30

Today we explore what it means to be a steward, entrusted with another's resources, & what God expects of us. 1 Corinthians 4:2, *it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.*

### Let's look at: SIX PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

These principles can apply to many areas of our life, such as our: finances, health, abilities, spiritual gifts, etc.

Matthew 25:14, *14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them.*

#### #1 Everything we have belongs to the Lord

- What's your initial push back to this? Is it, "wait, I earned that myself": Deuteronomy 8:17-18, *Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.'* You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth...
- The Scriptures are clear about this:
  - Colossians 1:16, *all things..created through him & for him...*
  - Haggai 2:8, *The silver is mine, and the gold is mine...*
  - Psalms 50:10, *For every beast of the forest is mine...*
  - Psalms 50:12, *for the world and its fullness are mine...*
  - Job 41:11, *Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine...*
- This can either bother you, or comfort you, but remember that God also says this, "you are mine!"
  - Isaiah 43:1, *...I have called you by name, you are mine.*
  - 1 John 3:1, *See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!*

Matthew 25:15, *15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.*

#### #2 God has loaned us His resources for a reason

- Don't compare your resources to others (wealth isn't always measured in dollars & cents).
- It's not how much, it's what you do with what you're given.
- What is the reason we receive this loan from God?
  - The reason is implied - the master wants his stewards to multiply his resources:
  - Genesis 1:28, *Be fruitful & increase in number; fill the earth...*
  - Matthew 28:19, *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...*

Matthew 25:16-18, *16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*

#### #3 We must use God's resources wisely

- Romans 12:6-8, *We have different gifts, according to the grace given to..us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*
- Use what you are given, and use it wisely, and use it for God's mission!
- It's not about taking great risk, but about being faithful.

Matthew 25:19, *19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.*

#### **#4 One day God will audit us**

- Like in this parable, there will be a day of accountability for all people:
  - Romans 14:12, *each of us will give an account of himself to God.*
  - 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, *13 our work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved...*

Matthew 25:20-23, *20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.'* 21 *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'* 22 *"The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'* 23 *"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'*

#### **#5 God rewards those who use His resources well**

- God is grateful for service done for His kingdom. Why?
  - Because His bride (the church) is taken care of.
  - Because the lost are pursued and introduced to Jesus.
- The reward we get is friendship with God. You get to "*share your master's happiness*"
- Luke 16:11, *...if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?*

Matthew 25:24-30, *24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'* 26 *"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 "So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

#### **#6 How we use God's resources reveals our faith**

- This parable about money all the sudden gets real serious about salvation! What's going on?
- A servant who is this selfish isn't actually a true "servant". Because even a little effort shows true saving faith.
- "Timid souls, not ready for bold and independent service on behalf of the kingdom, may link their incapacity to the capacity of others, who will make their gifts & possessions of use to the Master and His Church" (Pierson)

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