

Solid Rock Christian Church Manassas, Virginia

Bible Study - April 28, 2022

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Title: "What Has God Entrusted You With?"

Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 4:2

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."

I. Introduction

A. Our Scripture reference for this session refers to a steward but what is a steward? In Biblical times, those with great wealth and large estates would often appoint one qualified servant to be "over the house" (Genesis 43:19; 44:4).

B. This "steward" would act as a kind of guardian, superintendent, and/or manager (Luke 16:2-3). As the chief administrator of all household affairs, the steward functioned like an ancient COO (Chief Operating Officer) and CFO (Chief Financial Officer).

C. What has God entrusted to your care, and can He count on you to be faithful?

II. What is Required - The Qualities of a Steward

A. It is essential that any person entrusted with the responsibility of being a steward, and especially a Christian, your responsibilities must be characterized by the following - you must be:

- 1. Trustworthy**
- 2. Gifted**
- 3. Wise**
- 4. Servant-minded**
- 5. Compassionate**
- 6. Content**

7. Loyal

III. Exposition [Part I] - The Quality of Being Trustworthy

- A. Because the household steward would have access to large sums of money and valuable property, integrity and faithfulness were essential (Matt. 25:14-30; Luke 16:10-13; 1 Cor. 4:1-2).
- B. For Christians, first those in a leadership position, both within a local assembly among others of like precious faith, and in a secular position, integrity and faithfulness are essential.
- C. In spite of the many challenges of Christian Leadership, faithfulness is required and this also applies to Christians who are not necessarily in a leadership position.

Point: Your life should be a living testimony of who you profess to be in the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. Exposition [Part II] - The Quality of Being Gifted

- A. Due to the complexity and difficulties of the tasks, certain skills and abilities were vital for the household steward.
- B. As a Christian, God has bestowed a gift or gifts upon each and every believer (Rom. 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-31). Do you know what your gift or gifts are? If so, are you using your gift to glorify God?

V. Exposition [Part III] - The Quality of Being Wise

- A. The Word of God informs us that "Wisdom is the principal Thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding." (Prov. 4:7).
- B. We are also instructed to do the following: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, the giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5).
- C. The steward over a household had to be wise because the position called for frequent decision making. Therefore, the

steward needed to be insightful and discerning (Matt. 25:14-30).

D. Being wise based on godly wisdom (not the wisdom of the world) is another essential quality of a steward.

VI. Exposition [Part IV] - The Quality of Being Servant-Minded

A. Because a steward had one simple mission - to carry out the wishes of the master - he functioned less as a "boss" and more as a servant to the other servants within the household.

B. The steward's job was to use all of the resources allocated to him by the master to supply the other servants, so that they could do their jobs effectively and efficiently (Colossians 3:23).

C. As a Pastor, I am a servant, tasked to provide to the flock of God, sound leadership and solid biblical teaching so that you may be able to serve the Lord and others, more effectively and efficiently. We all have a responsibility to serve with a clear understanding of the words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who said - "... **for without me ye can do nothing.**" (John 15:5c).

VII. Exposition [Part V] - The Quality of Being Compassionate

A. Household stewards were caretakers and caregivers. As a result, they had to be concerned with distributing gifts and resources for the good of all (Matt. 14:13-21; 25:31-46; 1 Cor. 12:12-26; James 2:14-17).

B. Consider the words of the sweet Psalmist of Israel, David - "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth." (Psalm 86:15).

C. Do you demonstrate compassion towards others?

VIII. Exposition [Part VI] - The Quality of Contentment

A. Regardless of how much a steward is entrusted with, all they have belongs to God, and the steward must look to Him for all strength and wisdom (Phil. 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 6:6-10).

B. A God-fearing steward will consistently take the following to heart and therein find contentment - "I will lift up

mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2).

IX. Exposition [Part VII] - The Quality of Being Loyal

A. Because a steward must serve faithfully, remembering who they are and whose they are at all times is another essential quality.

B. A Christian steward will also take to heart the words of the Apostle Paul recorded in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you; which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

C. This and many other biblical truths should cause us to be loyal stewards. There is an old hymn titled - "Count on Me" and the refrain says - "Precious Savior count on me." Can the Lord count on you to be loyal?

X. Exposition [Part VIII] - What does Stewardship Have to do With Us?

A. The biblical writer borrowed the stewardship imagery and terminology to speak of how Christians should function within the Church - not only monetarily, but with our whole lives.

B. According to the Word of God, in Christ we are all trusted servants/stewards in the great household of God (1 Cor. 4:1; Eph. 2:19).

C. God assigns us to the task of using whatever gifts we have been given to dispense grace (1 Peter 4:10) and to help other believers (Eph. 3:2).

XI. Exposition [Part IX] - Principles of Overseeing - God's Expectations

A. God graciously allows us to oversee what He owns (1 Cor. 4:1). But God expects His overseers to be faithful (1 Cor. 4:2).

B. We should be faithful with what we are given, large or small (Matt. 25:14, 20-23).

C. Be trustworthy with other's possessions (Luke 16:12).

D. If we are consistently wasteful, God may dismiss us as an overseer (Luke 16:1-2).

XII. Summary - Why Stewardship Matters

A. The Bible makes it clear that every believer faces an eternal "job review" (2 Cor. 5:10).

B. Even more, Jesus told several parables that suggest that faithfulness to Christ in this life will give us greater opportunities for service in the world to come (Luke 19:12-27).

C. Are you being a good steward with what God has entrusted you with?

D. The Apostle Paul said these words to his young spiritual Son Timothy - "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called. Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen." (1 Tim. 6:20-21).

It is once again interactive time. Please complete the biblical passages that follow by filling in the blank spaces. Each passage has been taken from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible.

"Fear none of those things which thou shalt _____: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into _____, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have _____ ten days: be thou _____ unto _____, and I will give thee a _____ of life."

[Revelation 2:10]

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye _____, _____,
always _____ in the work of the Lord, _____ as ye know
that your _____ is not in _____ in the Lord."

[1 Corinthians 15:58]

"And the Lord said, **Who then is that _____ and _____
_____, whom his lord shall make ruler over his _____,
to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that
_____, whom his lord when he cometh shall _____ so doing."**

[Luke 12:42-43]

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I _____. It is of the Lord's
_____ that we are not _____, because his _____
fail not. They are _____ every morning: great is thy
_____."

[Lamentations 3:21-23]

"The fear of the Lord is the _____ of _____; a good
understanding have all they that do his _____: his
_____ endureth for ever."

[Psalm 111:10]

For Your Further Consideration

- If you are still in the workplace, are you being a good steward?
- Are you honoring the Lord by your productivity, or are you just doing enough to get by?
- Are there any areas in your life where you need to be a better steward for the Lord?

I trust that this study session has been a blessing to you. Please feel free to share what you have gleaned with others.

Jude 3

Pastor Austin