

Stewardship: Motives of the Heart

Lesson #5 Stewards After Eden

Memory Verse Get Scriptures to read

1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NKJV) *But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.*

The word translated as “steward” in a few Old Testament texts comes not from a single word but from a phrase: asher al bayt, the “one who is on or over a house.”

A biblical worldview of stewardship can be consciously defined as: “Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation.” The central essence of biblical worldview stewardship is managing everything God brings into the believer’s sphere of influence in a manner that honors God and impacts eternity. Stewardship begins and ends with the understanding of God’s ultimate ownership of all:

- “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” (Revelation 22:13)
- “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalm 24:1)
- “To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it.” (Deuteronomy 10:14)
- “The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.” (Leviticus 25:23)
- “Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me.” (Job 41:11)

Stewards in the Old Testament

Genesis 15:2 (NKJV) *But Abram said, “Lord God, what will You give me, seeing I go childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”*

Genesis 24:2–4 (NKJV) *So Abraham said to the oldest servant of his house, who ruled over all that he had, “Please, put your hand under my thigh,³ and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell;⁴ but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”*

***Genesis 39:4** (NKJV) *So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority.*

Genesis 43:19–20 (NKJV) *When they drew near to the steward of Joseph’s house, they talked with him at the door of the house,²⁰ and said, “O sir, we indeed came down the first time to buy food;*

Genesis 44:1 (NKJV) *And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, “Fill the men’s sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man’s money in the mouth of his sack.*

Genesis 44:4 *When they had gone out of the city, and were not yet far off, Joseph said to his steward, “Get up, follow the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid evil for good?’*

Isaiah 22:15–19 *Thus says the Lord God of hosts: “Go, proceed to this steward, To Shebna, who is over the house, and say: ‘What have you here, and whom have you here, That you have hewn a sepulcher here, As he who hews himself a sepulcher on high, Who carves a tomb for himself in a rock?’¹⁷ Indeed, the Lord will throw you away violently, O mighty man, And will surely seize you.¹⁸ He will surely turn violently and toss you like a ball Into a large country; There you shall die, and there your glorious chariots Shall be the shame of your master’s house.¹⁹ So I will drive you out of your office, And from your position he will pull you down.*

Stewards in the New Testament

Luke 12:47–48 (NKJV) *And that servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.⁴⁸ But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.*

Titus 1:6–7 *if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination.⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money,*

1 Peter 4:10 (NKJV) *As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

“Shall I open my heart to the Holy Spirit, that every faculty and energy may be aroused, which God has given me in trust? I am Christ’s property, and am employed in His service. I am a steward of His grace.”—Ellen G. White, *Christian Education*, p. 301.

***Matthew 25:21** (NKJV) *His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’*

Stewards of the Mysteries of God

Colossians 2:2–3 (NKJV) *that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

***1 Corinthians 4:1, 2** (NKJV) *Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*

1 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.*

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV) *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Stewards of Spiritual Truth

At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, when Dr. Franklin as he left Independence Hall on the final day of deliberation.

Well, Doctor, what have we got—a Republic or a Monarchy?”

He replied, “A Republic, if you can keep it.”

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

We are stewards of a gift.

Ephesians 6:13–17 (NKJV) *Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

Ezekiel 33:1–11 (NKJV) *Again the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ² “Son of man, speak to the children of your people, and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from their territory and make him their watchman, ³ when he sees the sword coming upon the land, if he blows the trumpet and warns the people, ⁴ then whoever hears the sound of the trumpet and does not take warning, if the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be on his own head. ⁵ He heard the sound of the trumpet, but did not take warning;*

his blood shall be upon himself. But he who takes warning will save his life. ⁶ But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.’

⁷ *“So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. ⁸ When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.*

⁹ *Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.*

¹⁰ *“Therefore you, O son of man, say to the house of Israel: ‘Thus you say, “If our transgressions and our sins lie upon us, and we pine away in them, how can we then live?”’ ¹¹ Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord God, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’*

Our Responsibility as Stewards

Matthew 18:23–24 (NKJV) *Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.*

“God desires to bring men into direct relation with Himself. In all His dealings with human beings He recognizes the principle of personal responsibility. He seeks to encourage a sense of personal dependence and to impress the need of personal guidance. His gifts are committed to men as individuals. Every man has been made a steward of sacred trusts; each is to discharge his trust according to the direction of the Giver; and by each an account of his stewardship must be rendered to God.”—Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 176.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*