

# Stewardship

## **Genesis 2:15 (NIV)**

**15** The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

*After God has formed Adam, he put him in the garden. The garden represents Gods' perfect paradise, a place that is self contained, yet even in this paradise, man had to work to take care of what God has given to us! None of us was were sent into this world to be idle.*

*The creator of our spirit, soul and bodies, has given us this earth for our habitation, has placed us here to work upon it and take care of it. After all, we are merely stewards of Gods' creation.*

*We the sons and heirs of heaven, while in this world, have something to do while on this earth! What ever we are to do, we must always have an eye and ear to God, to be mindful of His ways, so that we can truly serve Him and to do His Will!*

## **1 Corinthians 3:8 (NIV)**

**8** The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.

*Each one of us will be rewarded according to how hard we are willing to work for it! Each of us must be found loyal and be faithful to what God has called us to do!*

## **1 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NIV)**

**1** This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. **2** Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

## **Proverbs 27:18 (NIV)**

**18** The one who guards a fig tree will eat its fruit,

and whoever protects their master will be honored.

*God will honor and bless those who serve Him!*

### **1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NIV)**

**4** On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts.

*God has entrusted us with wisdom and knowledge of the gospel.*

### **1 Timothy 6:20 (NIV)**

**20** Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,

*God wants us to protect what He has given us, and warns us to be careful of things contrary to His Word.*

### **1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)**

**10** Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. **11** If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

*God has given each of us different gifts to do different things, all for the glory of God*

**So what is stewardship, the dictionary says;**

1. *The position and duties of a steward, a person who acts as the surrogate of another or others, especially by managing property, financial affairs, an estate, etc.*

*2. The responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving*

*We were created to to guard the things of God and protect the ways of God. We are in charge of taking care of and managing the property and financial affairs of what God has entrusted to us! We have the responsibility of overseeing, protecting and preserving the ways of Gods' Kingdom.*

**Psalm 1:1-3 (niv)**

**1** Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, **2** but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. **3** That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.

**Genesis 39:1-6 (NIV)**

**1** Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there. **2** The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. **3** When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, **4** Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. **5** From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. **6** So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

## Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

### The Parable of the Bags of Gold

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

**19** “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. **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!’

**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.’

*If we are not faithful stewards with what God has entrusted to us, His goods- His teachings- His finances- His relationships- His Love etc, it will all be taken away from us. If God finds us “unfaithful”, he will destroy us!*

*We must acknowledge God in all we do, for it is He who gives us the ability to produce wealth, it is through Him that we prosper!*

### **Deuteronomy 8:17-20 (NIV)**

**17** You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” **18** But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.

**19** If you ever forget the Lord your God and follow other gods and worship and bow down to them, I testify against you today that you will surely be destroyed. **20** Like the nations the Lord destroyed before you, so you will be destroyed for not obeying the Lord your God.

*God has created a financial freedom for His people; the ability to give of the tithes and offerings! God uses this method to bring an abundance of a harvest so that His Kingdom will be self sufficient, and His people will be blessed, like the original garden was meant to be!*

### **Malachi 3:6-12 (NIV)**

#### **Breaking Covenant by Withholding Tithes**

**6** “I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. **7** Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

**8** “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings. **9** You are under a curse —your whole nation —because you are robbing me. **10** Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. **11** I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe, ” says the Lord Almighty. **12** “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.

### **Luke 21:1-4 (NIV)**

#### **The Widow’s Offering**

**1** As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. **2** He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. **3** “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. **4** All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

### **Acts 4:32-37 (NIV)**

#### **The Believers Share Their Possessions**

**32** All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. **33** With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all **34** that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales **35** and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

**36** Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”), **37** sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles’ feet.

### **Acts 5:1-11 (NIV)**

#### **Ananias and Sapphira**

**1** Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property. **2** With his wife’s full knowledge he kept back

part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet.

**3** Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? **4** Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

**5** When Ananias heard this, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard what had happened. **6** Then some young men came forward, wrapped up his body, and carried him out and buried him.

**7** About three hours later his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. **8** Peter asked her, "Tell me, is this the price you and Ananias got for the land?"

"Yes," she said, "that is the price."

**9** Peter said to her, "How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."

**10** At that moment she fell down at his feet and died. Then the young men came in and, finding her dead, carried her out and buried her beside her husband. **11** Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events.

## **2 Corinthians 8:1-5 (NIV)**

### **The Collection for the Lord's People**

**8** And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. **2** In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. **3** For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, **4** they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. **5** And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-11 (NIV)**

### **Generosity Encouraged**

**6** Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. **7** Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**8** And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

**9** As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”

**10** Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. **11** You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.