

# STEWARDSHIP

**Sunday School Lessons**  
**By Dr. Ernest Gambrell**  
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## LESSON ONE

### STEWARDSHIP REQUIREMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES I Corinthians 4:2 - Matthew 25:14-30

**Intro:** There is a strong similarity between a steward and a minister of the Gospel (vs. 1)

1. A minister is held to THE HIGHEST standard!
2. A steward should meet those same standards.

#### I. God's Requirement for being a Steward

A. THE main requirement is not ability, but "fidelity."

##### Definition:

1. It is an "Office of Trust."
2. Loyal to Master (If you disagree - Your master should never know it)
3. A. The attributes of a good steward are: (1) Faith & (2) Wise - (Matthew 24:45)
  - a. Picture: Not a politician!
  - b. His decision should not be influenced by feelings of friends.

##### Reason Trust is necessary:

1. Required particularly because the master's goods are at his disposal
2. Because there is so much opportunity for the steward to mis-appropriate the master's goods – and use them for his own pleasure!

**Example:** Jesus Christ: Revelation 19:11 – His NAME is "Faithful."

1. Romans 8:29 – Are to be "conformed" to His likeness

##### Motivation for a Steward to be faithful:

1. He is appointed by Jesus Christ.
2. He must answer to Jesus Christ and to Jesus Christ ALONE!

**How?** John 8:29 – I do ALWAYS those things that please Him!

*If you please the Lord, it doesn't matter who you displease;*

*If you do not please the Lord, it doesn't matter who you do please.*

#### II. Bible Example of Faithfulness (Matthew 25:14-30)

B. Look at the two men were good and faithful stewards (Vs. 14-23)

1. One **USED** the 5 talents & the other the 2 talents.

C. Notice: There was no difference between the reward given the man with 5 and 2!

1. The Reward is according to – Faithfulness
2. It is not according to "**quantity**" but according to "**quality.**"
3. I Corinthians 3:12-13 "what sort it is...." (Not how much it is)

D. Notice the response to the man that DID NOT use the talent given him. Vs. 25-26

1. Use it or lose it!

E. Today: God does not judge or reward a church **by the SIZE** of the ministry.

God rewards a church according to the quality – not quantity.

1. Being a "good steward" in the Local Church is:

- a. Making EVERY decision based on the Word of God (I Timothy 2:5)
- b. Using Bible Methods
- d. No room for politics in a local church!**

### III. God's Ownership of All

- A. God is Creator of ALL (Genesis Chapter)
  - 1. Each act of creation begins with, "God said..... let there be...."
  - 2. A fact clearly stated in Psalms 50:10-12
- B. Man is owned by God – Two-fold
  - 1. By Creation (Genesis 1:26)
  - 2. By Purchase (I Corinthians 6:19-20)
- C. God has every reason to expect us to be faithful because of
  - 1. Creation
  - 2. Purchase
  - 3. He equipped us to be faithful - (John 14:16-17)
  - 2. You and I are WITHOUT excuse!
- D. What does God expect?
  - 1. Starts with Romans 12:1-2
  - 2. Continues in all our actions (I Corinthians 10:31; Joshua 24:15)
  - 3. Till Death – "be faithful unto death" (Rev 2:10)

### IV. The "Goods" over which God made Man Responsible (Matthew 23:23)

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have **omitted the weightier matters** of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."

**A. The Heart - Definition:** The heart is not the organ that pumps blood, but rather refers to the "real" you – the innermost part of your being.

- 1. How is the Heart described in Jeremiah 17:9.?
- 2. What is the function of the Heart according to Proverbs 4:23?
- 3. What type of Heart should a Christian desire? Psalms 51:10
- 4. What type of heart attitude does God expect us to have? Psalms 51:17
- 5. What should be the daily prayer of a Christian? Psalms 139:23-24
- 6. GOD EXPECTS US TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR HEART.

**B. The Tongue - Definition:** This refers to the "words" spoken BY the tongue.

1. How is the tongue described in James 3:2-8?
2. How important are the words we speak? (Matthew 12:37)  
**True or False:** Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me?  
**FALSE!**
3. GOD EXPECTS US TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF OUR TONGUE.

#### **C. The Mind**

1. A good steward is responsible to control what he thinks (II Corinthians 10:5)
2. A good steward will discipline himself to think on good things. (Philippians 4:8)
3. A good steward should strive to have a mind like Christ. (I Cor. 2:16)
4. A good steward is promised "peace of heart" if he controls the mind. (Isaiah 26:3)

#### **D. The Eye**

1. It is vitally important for a Christian to control what his eyes look at. (Lam. 3:51)
2. The eye "looking" leads to lust (I John 2:16)
3. Danger (Proverb 27:20) – never satisfied!

**TO BE A GOOD STEWARD A CHRISTIAN MUST CONTROL HIS BODY, HIS HEART, HIS WORDS, HIS MIND, AND HIS EYES.**

**LESSON TWO**  
**STEWARDSHIP**  
**TIME AND TALENTS**  
**Ephesians 5:16**

**Intro:** God gave each of us “threescore years and ten” = 70 years – 25,550 days (Psalms 90:10)

**God’s Instructions concerning our time:**

1. Redeem our time
  - a. To rescue our time from waste

**God tells us:** Why we should redeem our time

1. Because the days are evil (Psalms 37:19)
2. Because of the many temptations to waste our time
3. Because God gave us time for useful purposes
4. Because man has exactly enough time to do the things God’s wants us to do
5. Because God has not given us more than enough time

**I. Why should we be a good stewards of our time?**

**A. Because Life is short**

1. God compares our time on earth to a vapor (James 4:14)
2. God pictures our life on earth as “grass” (James 1:10-11)
3. God gives man the responsibility to be a good steward of his life (Psalms 90:12)  
**PICTURE:** The Greek verb indicates that man should “number his days” or “he should prepare a calendar by the day, week, or month and then “lay out a list of work” that he needs to do beside it. Then he should transfer “the work/s” to “the calendar” and have a plan to accomplish the work without wasting any time.
4. Back to our opening text (Ephesians 5:16)  
Meaning: Rescue from Loss!
5. Life/time is man’s most precious commodity  
Do not waste your life

**B. Because God has no use for Laziness!**

1. Stated from the very beginning of Creation
  - a. Genesis 3:17-19 – By the sweat of....Work!
  - b. Work is honorable – I Timothy 5:8
2. Laziness is Condemned (Proverbs 6:9-11)
  - a. God against laziness? (II Thess. 3:10)
3. God’s picture of “good stewardship” of time (Proverbs 6:6-9)

### **C. God has things He wants us to accomplish**

**NOTE: These should be written on your “calendar,” and you should have a plan to accomplish as much as you can without wasting the time God has given you.**

1. Mark 13:33-37 “Watch – but WORK” (vs. 34)

2. Have a set time for prayer

a. Daniel had a Set Time (Daniel 6:10)

b. David had a Set Time (Psalms 63:1)

3. Have a set time for meditation on God’s Word.

a. Joshua 1:8

b. Psalms 1:2

c. Psalms 119:97

4. Have a set time for God’s work.

a. Matthew 28:19-20

b. Mark 16:15

c. Acts 1:8

### **II. Be a Good Steward of your Spiritual Gift/Talents**

A. Every Christian has a “special” gift (I Peter 4:11)

B. GOD selected you for a special purpose and gave you a special gift. (I Corinthians 12:11).

C. Your gift is not for “self” pleasure or good (I Corinthians 12:7)

(A woman was at the scene of an accident – people hurt badly – bleeding  
She remembered her “first-aid course” – sat down and put her head between  
Her knees because she remembered she would not faint if she did that!)

NOTE: She was using “her gift” for herself – while others hurt and die.

D. Your gift is for the edification of the Church (Ephesians 4:11-12)

1. The Bible compares the function of the church to our body.

a. I Corinthians 12:23-26

b. If you do not use your gift – the entire church will suffer (I Cor. 12:17-22)

2. If you do not use your talent – it will be taken from you (Matthew 25:25-26)

### **III. Be a good steward of your time and talents and you will hear it said:**

**WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!**

## STEWARDSHIP

### LESSON THREE

#### POSSESSIONS

#### I Corinthians 4:7

**Intro:** To realize that all of our possessions were provided for us by God. (John 3:27)

#### I. Man's Stewardship of God's Possessions in the Old Testament

A. Before the law was ever given, God expected man to tithe.

1. The Dispensation of Promise: (About 1900 BC)

Tithes of possessions were given about 500 years before the Law.  
(Genesis 14:18-20)

2. The Dispensation of Law (About 1500 BC)

a. The Law began about 1490 BC with Moses (Exodus 19-23)

b. The children of Israel gave tithes of all. (Leviticus 27:30-32)

(Also see Deuteronomy 14:22)

3. The Children of Israel also gave offerings – above the tithe.

(Leviticus 23:8, 12, 18 & 19)

#### II. Man's Stewardship of God's Possessions in the New Testament

A. Tithing is taught by Christ/Holy Spirit in the New Testament (Matthew 23:23)

1. Luke 18:12 – Pharisees gave tithes

B. God measures giving, not by quantity but by quality: (Mark 12:41-44)

(I Corinthians 3:13 – "...what sort it is (not how much it is)

1. Quality giving is determined by willingness. (II Corinthians 8:12)

2. Quality giving is determined by attitude. (II Corinthians 9:7)

C. You should NEVER give to get recognition (Matthew 6:1-4)

If you give to get recognition – you have your reward. (Matthew 6:5)

D. You should NEVER give with a motive for you to "get rich." (Wrong motive)

E. You should give with a "right motive" – give to get – to give more to get more - to give more.

How does that work: II Corinthians 9:6-10 " ...abound to every good work" vs. 8:

"Multiply our seed." Vs. 10

F. You will be rewarded by the measure in which you give. (II Corinthians 9:6)

1. If you give sparingly – you reap sparingly

2. If you give bountifully – you reap bountifully

#### BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:

1. I Kings 17:13-16 - Every time they needed food, there was more meal in the barrel

a. The widow woman had faith and obeyed God – Gave to the man of God.

b. She was rewarded for her giving.

2. Mark 6:38 – Every time the disciples gave out bread and fish, there was more in bread in the baskets to give to the next person.

***"It is more blessed to give than to receive"*** (Acts 20:35b)



## STEWARDSHIP

### LESSON FOUR ACCOUNTABILITY II Corinthians 5:10

**Intro:** Many, if not most Christians, “live for the present.” They never give thought to the Bible truth that they will one day be required to “give an account” for their decisions and actions.

Believers will not be judged to determine if they go to Heaven or Hell. That judgment fell upon Christ at the cross on Calvary.

Believers will not be required to give an account for their “sins” as those, past, present, and future were all forgiven and washed away by the blood of Christ.

- A. Isaiah 38:17: “Cast our sins behind His back”
- B. Psalms 103:12: “Removed sins as far as the east is from west”
- C. Jeremiah 31:34b: “Forgives and forgets”

#### I. **The Judgment Seat - Face to Face with Christ!**

- A. Christians will receive the things done in their body.
  - 1. This will be done “according to that he hath done
  - 2. It will cover both good and bad.
  
- B. Christians that have been faithful stewards will hear, “Well done good and faithful...”
  - 1. They will be rewarded by Christ for their faithfulness. (Revelation 22:12)
  
- C. Christians will watch as their bad works burn. (I Corinthians 3:12-15)
  - 1. What loss will they suffer?

**ILLUSTRATION:** A man is a Christian. He has not won his wife and children to Christ. He has been too busy making money. He has done well, made money, has a beautiful home on several acres. He does not believe in banks. He has all his money, stocks, bonds, everything in his house. He goes to bed one night happy. He is awakened about 3 AM by the smell of fire and smoke. He sees fire all around him – sees the roof about to fall on him and his wife. He has no time to wake his wife or children. There is a hole burned in the wall by his bed. He jumps and dives out the hole. The roof caves in. He hears his wife and children scream as they perish in the fire. He moves further away from the fire – stops and finds a neighbor standing beside him. He says to the neighbor, “There it goes – my house, my wife, my children, my money, my stocks, my bonds – everything I’ve worked for – my entire life is going up in smoke. But, it’s okay. I am saved – and, that’s all that matters.”

Do you think that is what you will say? No. You will suffer loss! – watching your life go up in flames – all you life’s work burned!

**II. Jesus Promised to Return (John 14:1-3)**

A. Christians do not know the hour of his return. (Mark 13:32 & Acts 1:6,7)

B. Christians, not knowing the hour He will return, should “occupy” until He comes.

1. I John 3:2, 3

2. Titus 2:11-14

**III. If Jesus returned today, would you be glad?**

A. Would you be ready to give an account – with joy?

B. Would you regret the way you spent your life?