

## BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP STEWARDSHIP SERIES

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September 19, 2021

**INTRO:** I love you and I want to see you so blessed and prosperous. I am speaking as a father. Just like I want to see my children and grandchildren prospering, I want to see you prosper.

I promise, if you act on what will be taught in this series, you will prosper financially and be blessed in your life overall. I believe that this series that we are beginning is going to change your life.

I have been walking with the Lord for 48 years, and the longer I live, the more I realize how important stewardship is from God's perspective. God expects us to steward more than just our finances (although that will be the primary emphasis in this series), but God wants us to steward every aspect of our life. He wants us to develop a value of stewardship in our lives. I know that is a big, general statement, but let me give you three examples of stewardship that are relevant to all of us.

(1) Time. We all have 24 hours each day, and God wants us to steward our time wisely. Think of the hours we waste watching TV. I am not here to condemn. There is no condemnation in Christ. And I am always preaching to myself when I preach to you.

(2) Our possessions. How many of us buy things we really don't need, and we never use? Being a Prime member of Amazon, it is so easy for us to purchase things we don't need, and we hardly use. We just accumulate clutter.

(3) Food. Just think of the food we order at restaurants and the food we cook at home that ends up in the trash. Again, there is no condemnation, but may we grow in becoming better stewards.

### **TEXT:**

**Luke 19:11 While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. 12 So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. 13 And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.' 14 But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' 15**

When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. 16 The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' 17 And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' 18 The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' 19 And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.' 20 Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; 21 for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' 22 He said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? 23 Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' 24 Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' 25 And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.' 26 I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. 27 But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."

Before we get into the specific points in this text, I want to give you some background to our text. When Joseph, Mary, and Jesus returned from Egypt to escape King Herod's murderous decree to kill every boy in Bethlehem two years and younger, Herod had died, and his son Herod Archelaus was now King of Judea. There is a verse in Matthew that mentions King Archelaus: Matthew 2:22 "But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, 23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: 'He shall be called a Nazarene.'"

According to the historian Josephus, Archelaus went to Rome to secure his kingship. While he was there, religious leaders went to Rome to appeal that Archelaus would not become king. Caesar Augustus still made him a king. When Archelaus came back to Israel, to take revenge on the religious leaders who had lobbied against his kingship, Archelaus slaughtered 3,000 Pharisees. He was an evil man. Now Jesus incorporates this contemporary history into this parable. You will see it unfold as we go over this text.



One more thing I would like to mention concerning the context to this parable of stewardship: It is right after the story of Jesus meeting Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus getting radically saved. Jesus sums up Zacchaeus' conversion with a powerful statement: **Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."**

We must see the next parable considering Jesus' mission to save people and that which was lost in the Garden of Eden. As we talk about prosperity and good stewardship, we are going to miss it if we don't emphasize that the purpose of stewardship is to align our hearts and our resources to advance God's Kingdom with the Gospel of the Kingdom. That is why in our church and HIM, we teach **prosperity with a purpose.**

## **I. THE ROLES INVOLVED IN STEWARDSHIP**

### **A. THE OWNER — GOD OWNS EVERYTHING**

1. **Psalm 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.**
2. **Haggai 2:8 "The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine,' declares the LORD of hosts."**
3. **Psalm 50:10 "For every beast of the forest is Mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine. 12 If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is Mine, and all it contains."**
4. Over the years, one of the biggest lies that the Church has embraced is, "This is my hard-earned money. I can do whatever I want to do with it." Implying, "I can tithe or not tithe. It is up to me because it is my money." Sure, you have the freedom to choose what to do. You can also choose to rob a 7-Eleven if you want to, but you don't because it is against the law. And God says when you hold back your tithe, you are robbing God (Malachi 3:8-10). Why would you want to rob God?

### **B. THE STEWARD (SLAVE)**

1. The steward managed the possessions of his master/owner. But we need to understand that biblical stewards were more like sons than slaves.
2. In Genesis 24, Abraham's servant has the authority to pick a wife for Isaac. He is given an enormous amount of money to use at his discretion (Genesis 24:22). Genesis 24:53 "The servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother."
3. "My servant Eliakim, the son of Hilkiyah."



4. Isaiah 22:20 “Then it will come about in that day, that I will summon My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, 21 and I will clothe him with your tunic and tie your sash securely about him. I will entrust him with your authority, and he will become a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. 22 Then I will set the key of the house of David on his shoulder, when he opens no one will shut, when he shuts no one will open.”

## II. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A STEWARD

### A. GENERAL

1. We all have time.
2. We all have the same Spirit.
3. We are all born again.
4. God has given us natural talents and He has given us gifts.

### B. “DO BUSINESS UNTIL I COME”

1. Your work. Your work is ministry. Your work and ministry is on one or more of the seven mountains of society. Do your work as unto the Lord and not unto man. This is called the “Protestant work ethic.”
2. MANAGE YOUR FINANCES:
  - 1) Love and Obey Jesus First.
  - 2) Tithes and Offerings.
  - 3) Get Out of Debt.
  - 4) Have Five Revenue Sources (Passive Revenue).
  - 5) Start Your Own Business for Tax Purposes.
  - 6) Renounce the Spirit of Mammon and the Love of Money.
  - 7) Break the Spirit of Poverty.

## III. THE REWARDS OF STEWARDSHIP

### A. REWARDS ON EARTH: Biblical Prosperity

1. **Luke 19:16 “The first appeared, saying, ‘Master, your mina has made ten minas more.’ 17 And he said to him, ‘Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.’”**
2. He will increase our authority to oversee greater spheres of ministry.
3. This includes overseeing greater wealth.

### B. REWARDS IN HEAVEN: The Judgment Seat of Christ

1. **2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.**



2. **Romans 14:10 But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.**

**CONCLUSION:** Let's offer everything back to the Lord, starting with our hearts.

