

MONEY MATTERS

PART 2 – STEWARDSHIP VS OWNERSHIP

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How should we view our resources? Matthew 25:14-30

"... the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a trip. He called together his servants and gave them money to invest for him while he was gone.... To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away."

- *I am a steward, not an owner*
- *I have been entrusted with them, I haven't earned or deserved them.*
- *Our resources are a temporarily and we will be held accountable to how we use what we were given.*
- *An opportunity to serve and demonstrate our faith by investing in the Kingdom of God*

How should we give? 2 Corinthians 8 & 9

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.'"

- *Give as an outflow of your relationship with God, an expression of gratitude.*
- *Giving should be based in proportion of what you have.*
- *Giving should be a decision you make, not a feeling you have.*
- *Give with a good attitude, from a generous & cheerful heart.*

How should we view our extra blessing? Luke 12:13-21

"...who will get everything you worked for?' 'Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.'"

- *Abundance doesn't provide lasting protection and security.*
- *Abundance is for investment in the kingdom of God, not for personal advancement*

Conclusion - Practical steps to being a good steward:

- Shift your perspective on life to Jesus' perspective to; Life is a time of testing & entrusting to build your character, which will impact your eternal future.
- START: Worship God with your resources; Your time (serving) and money (giving) is a part of your spiritual growth journey.
- Take inventory of what you have been entrusted with; Ask God daily for wisdom and direction to know His will for His resources.
- Pray about, and plan differently for abundance; Abundance is an opportunity to be a blessing to others rather than create security for yourself.

"if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?"

Luke 16:11