

## What's In Your Hand? – Part 5

### Becoming Better Stewards In Light Of Eternity

***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 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NKJV)***

- **Our Time.**
- **Our Talents.**
- **Our Influence.**
- **Our Treasure.**

***And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.***

***Luke 12:42-43 (ESV)***

- **Managing our time is not about having more time but about using the time we have effectively and recognizing the brevity of life.**

***Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit”; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.”***

***James 4:13-15 (NKJV)***

- **The Greatest use of our earthly time is to understand and pursue God's will for our lives.**

***Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **making the best use of the time**, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, **but understand what the will of the Lord is.*****

***Ephesians 5:15-17 (ESV)***

- **To Be Good Stewards of Our Earthly Time means to see our temporary lives in the context of eternity and be aware of God's opportunities in this life.**

***Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct.***

***Galatians 6:4-5 (NLT)***

#### **Biblical Example: Esther**

***Mordecai gave Hathach a copy of the decree issued in Susa that called for the death of all Jews. He asked Hathach to show it to Esther and explain the situation to her. He also asked Hathach to direct her to go to the king to beg for mercy and plead for her people. So Hathach returned to Esther with Mordecai's message. Then Esther told Hathach to go back and relay this message to Mordecai: “All the king's officials and even the people in the provinces know that anyone who appears before the king in his inner court without being invited is doomed to die unless the king holds out his gold scepter. And the king has not called for me to come to him for thirty days.”***

***Esther 4:8-11 (NLT)***

- The greater the measure of influence, the greater the responsibility.
- We will be foolish to think we can hide because of our position in life.

So Hathach gave Esther's message to Mordecai. Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: **"Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed.**

**Esther 4:12-13 (NLT)**

- There are some defining moments in our lives that if we refuse to risk, we will fail to possess all that God has in store for us.
- Esther had to be aware of time and timing by understanding her ultimate purpose.

**If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"**

**Esther 4:14 (NLT)**

- Every decision needs to be a prayer-bathed decision.
- We will have to choose between security or opportunity.

Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: **"Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I must die."** So Mordecai went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

**Esther 4:15-16 (NLT)**

**God will ultimately reward the wise, faithful, and productive manager.**

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

**1 Corinthians 10:31 (NLT)**

**Those who gather crops on time are wise, but those who sleep through the harvest are a disgrace.**

**Proverbs 10:5 (NCV)**

**Spend time with the wise and you will become wise, but the friends of fools will suffer.**

**Proverbs 13:20 (NCV)**

If you are lazy and sleep your time away, you will starve.

**Proverbs 19:15 (CEV)**

**Think of us as servants of Christ who have been given the work of explaining God's mysterious ways. And since our first duty is to be faithful to the one we work for, it doesn't matter to me if I am judged by you or even by a court of law. In fact, I don't judge myself. I don't know of anything against me, but this doesn't prove I am right. The Lord is my judge. So don't judge anyone until the Lord returns. He will show what is hidden in the dark and what is in everyone's heart. Then God will be the one who praises each of us.**

**1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (CEV)**

**Principle: If God grants us long-term success, there will come a time when we have to choose between security and greater opportunity.**