

What's In Your Hand? - Part 1

Becoming Better Stewards In Light Of Eternity

The Rock Church Is About:

- Loving God with all we've got.
- Growing in Christ with all our energies.
- Serving others with every opportunity.
- Reaching our world with all our passion!

I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the father will honor anyone who serves me.

John 12:24-26 (NLT)

- Christ's Lordship of our lives must be reflected in the stewardship of our lives.

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)

“Be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning, as though you were waiting for your master to return from the wedding feast. Then you will be ready to open the door and let him in the moment he arrives and knocks. The servants who are ready and waiting for his return will be rewarded. I tell you the truth, he himself will seat them, put on an apron, and serve them as they sit and eat! He may come in the middle of the night or just before dawn. But whenever he comes, he will reward the servants who are ready. “Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.” Peter asked, “Lord, is that illustration just for us or for everyone?” And the Lord replied, “A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns. But what if the servant thinks, ‘My master won't be back for a while,’ and he begins beating the other servants, partying, and getting drunk? The master will return unannounced and unexpected, and he will cut the servant in pieces and banish him with the unfaithful. “And a servant who knows what the master wants, but isn't prepared and doesn't carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly. When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required.”

Luke 12:35-48 (NLT)

- We are managers not owners.

The Question Will Be:

- Did we use it for selfish reasons or did we use it for the benefit of others and the building of His kingdom.
- How you use what has been given to you is an indicator of whether you see yourself as an owner or manager.

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-26 (NLT)

- We have been transferred to be transformed, into a new Kingdom with a different kind of approach.

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son.

Colossians 1:13 (NLT)

- We always have to make decisions that benefit God's Kingdom, even if it means sacrifice on our end.
- The end of all spiritual endeavors is to see lives changed, not bank accounts grow.
- At the end of our lives, it will not be what we have gained that will determine whether we failed or succeeded, but what we gave.

Here Is A Few Kingdom Principles:

- To give is to gain.
- To lose is to win.
- To die is to live.
- To be last is to be first.
- To be the least is to be the greatest.
- To love is to give.

- To receive is to be entrusted.
- To be responsible is to be faithful.
- I am most like Jesus when I am willing to give up all I am, all I have, and all I could possibly be for the sake of another. Self preservation has never been and will never be a Kingdom value, but self sacrifice is and always will be!

By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.
1 John 3:16 (ESV)

- My ego is always at odds with the picture of the suffering servant in Jesus.

I was put to death on the cross with Christ, and I do not live anymore—it is Christ who lives in me. I still live in my body, but I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself to save me.
Galatians 2:20 (NCV)