

What's In Your Hand? – Part 4

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)

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)

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NLT)

1. The root of all healthy stewardship is love.

We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything. 1 John 3:16-20 (NLT)

- A non-giving love, is a non-existing love.
- True loves foundation is shown in acts of generosity.
- Our love should be a reflection of God's love.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8 (NLT)

For this is how God loved... He gave... John 3:16 (NLT)

- Whenever I choose not to be generous, I am making a decision not to love.
- Because wherever my money goes my heart follows.

Your heart will always be where your treasure is. Matthew 6:21 (CEV)

And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35 (NLT)

- Sometimes doing that which seems most practical, can be the most loving thing to do. And sometimes the most practical thing to do can be the most unloving thing to do.

For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NLT)

- When we look for models to follow in building God's Kingdom which is His church, we need to be careful that we do not seek worldly wisdom but rather an other worldly Kingdom.

Jesus said; "Don't let your needs determine your priorities, let my Kingdom be your priority."

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:33 (NLT)

Two Levels We Must Operate In To Be Kingdom Minded:

- A heart of generosity.
- A skillfulness in management.

Using the gift God gave me, I laid the foundation of that house like an expert builder. Others are building on that foundation, but all people should be careful how they build on it. The foundation that has already been laid is Jesus Christ, and no one can lay down any other foundation. 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 (NCV)

On their arrival in Capernaum, the collectors of the Temple tax came to Peter and asked him, "Doesn't your teacher pay the Temple tax?" "Yes, he does," Peter replied. Then he went into the house. But before he had a chance to speak, Jesus asked him, "What do you think, Peter? Do kings tax their own people or the people they have conquered?" "They tax the people they have conquered," Peter replied. "Well, then," Jesus said, "the citizens are free! However, we don't want to offend them, so go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a large silver coin. Take it and pay the tax for both of us."

Matthew 17:24-27 (NLT)

- This upside down, right side up Kingdom must be operated in according to what the King determines not the subjects!
- Start thinking like a manager, not an owner.

If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead.¹⁰ So why do you condemn another believer? Why do you look down on another believer? Remember, we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For the Scriptures say, "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will declare allegiance to God.'" Yes, each of us will give a personal account to God. So let's stop condemning each other. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall. Romans 14:8-13 (NLT)

*But I and my people are like nothing. How are we able to give all these gifts to help your work? **Everything that we have comes from you. So we are giving back to you things that already belong to you.** We are like strangers and foreign people who live in your world. Our ancestors also lived in that way. **We live here only for a short time and then we disappear, like a shadow. We know that we will die one day.** Lord, our God, we have given these things to build a temple for you, to give honour to your holy name. **But all these valuable things come from you. They already belong to you.***

1 Chronicles 29:14-16 (EASY)