

Understanding God's Will – Lesson 10

The Carpool Sign: Stewardship

I. The Call to Stewardship

a. Proven (Matthew 25:14-30)

1. The story of the talents clearly shows a great challenge of proving our faithfulness through productivity, opposed to simply maintaining.
2. God requires that we are productive with our resources, not simply maintenance people.
3. The servant is commended verbally and then entrusted with greater responsibility.
4. This parable contains an important message for us: We are stewards of all that is entrusted to us, and one day we will give an account.
5. Those who are faithful in the small opportunities to serve receive greater opportunities.



b. Promote (Psalm 78:70-72)

1. David was elevated to serve in a higher capacity based on his proficiency.
2. Promotion comes only after a clear demonstration of faithfulness.
3. There is a great responsibility for those who are entrusted at certain higher levels of service (1 Corinthians 4:2). Our effectiveness will determine if God will add to our list of responsibilities.

II. Stewardship and the Will of God

- a. Owner (Psalm 100:3)
 1. He created us and made us what we are; therefore, he must by right be our owner.
 2. God's ownership of all humanity and creation is undeniable and absolute.
- b. Originator (Isaiah 64:8)
- c. Omnipotent (1 Chronicles 29:11)
 1. The heavens and earth all belong to God.
- d. Obligation (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
 1. Christ died for all; therefore, all that live should do so for him.
 2. He died for us; consequently we should live for Him as stewards of His blessings. (Romans 12:1-2)

"If I am called to be a steward, and if one day I will give an account to God for my stewardship, then I need to know over what things I am to be a steward."

III. What a Steward is a Steward Of

- a. Time
 1. Time is a nonrenewable resource that is finite in its supply. It is essentially a perishable commodity which is not eternal.
 2. "A significant life is not a result of how much time I have, but of how I use that time." (Rasnake, 2001)
 3. We should make full use of our time for the days are evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16)
 4. The key is balance – You cannot use stewardship as an excuse for not sleeping or spending time with your family.
 - Too many people waste their lives working to establish a lifestyle that is inauthentic and which has no lasting impact on any they love.
 5. A great question for self-reflection is, "Was it worth it?"

b. Talent

1. Every person has certain God-given abilities; both natural and spiritual, that make him unique. And God desires to use those gifts.
2. Scripture teaches, however, that every believer does have spiritually-endowed abilities over which God calls him to be steward (1 Peter 4:10).
3. Each Christian is called to “employ” that gift not for his own benefit, but to benefit others and the church.

“Our spiritual gifts can be neglected (1 Timothy 4:14), or they can be developed (2 Timothy 1:6). To be good stewards we must exercise those gifts in such a way that they minister to others, not just ourselves (1 Peter 4:10), and they must glorify God, not us (1 Peter 4:11). (Rasnake, 2001)

c. Treasures

1. Unfaithfulness disqualifies you for service or promotion in other areas.
2. Stewardship of our finances speaks volumes about spirituality.

d. Truth

1. Each of us has heard the truth and are consequently accountable to God for how we’ve handled that truth.
2. Each sermon and lesson serves as a challenge to us and evidence against us at the judgment.

*“That awful day will surely come
Appointed hour makes haste
When I must stand before my judge and pass a solemn test”*