

MESSAGE ONE: STEWARDSHIP

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Luke 19:11–27 (NASB)

"¹¹ While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. ¹² So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. ¹³ And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.' ¹⁴ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' ¹⁵ When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. ¹⁶ The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' ¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' ¹⁸ The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' ¹⁹ And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.' ²⁰ Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; ²¹ for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' ²² He *said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?' ²⁴ Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' ²⁵ And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.' ²⁶ I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ²⁷ But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."

MESSAGE GOAL:

The goal of this message on Living In Financial Victory is to share with the audience the biblical principles of stewardship within the realm of God's kingdom so that we may further His agenda and reap the rewards of His favor.

INTRODUCTION:

Many Christians have a mistaken view of how to steward our

finances. What we think we own, we really don't. All that we own is really God's. What Satan wants to do is make us think we can do whatever we want with it, independently of God.

A key element in carrying out God's kingdom agenda is our stewardship of what He has given to us. We need to learn how to be good stewards, or managers, of what we have. Stewardship can be defined as *protecting and expanding the assets and resources of another*.

It is only through the biblical principles of stewardship that we will attain to a life of financial victory. If we choose to view our finances apart from God's ownership, we will fail to actualize the financial blessings that He has tied to His precepts. In fact, not only will we fail to actualize the blessings, but we will suffer loss.

Many of us in Christian circles today have missed the point of God's gift of money. While we recognize that He has given it to us, we do not realize its' purpose. We often spend it, consume it or waste it rather than maximizing it for its fullest potential.

God has a purpose when it comes to our finances. An excellent summary statement of the purpose God has for money is found in the book of Deuteronomy where we read,

"But you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day." (Deuteronomy 8:18)

God provides for His servants financially in order to confirm His covenant with them. Now, keep in mind that doesn't mean that we will be "wealthy" by the world's standards. God is not our cosmic slot machine. In the preceding verse, wealth is defined as having enough to eat, a place to live, herds, flocks and enough to be sufficiently satisfied.

SERMON POINTS:

1. THE COVENANT AND STEWARDSHIP

- God provides for His servants financially in order to confirm His covenant with them. (Deuteronomy 8:18)



- God's covenant refers to His kingdom—the visible demonstration of the comprehensive rule of God over every area of life.
- The kingdom includes three aspects: God is the King, we are His subjects, we have rules to follow, which are biblical principles and truths, and God's realm includes the whole world. (Psalm 24:1)
- God's covenant is always intended to bless the person in the covenant in order for that person to be a blessing to others. (Genesis 12:2; 1 Corinthians 10:16)

2. VICTORY THROUGH THE COVENANT

- Christians are part of God's kingdom and therefore have covenantal rights. Understanding your covenantal rights and privileges allows you to know how to live a victorious life with kingdom authority.
- The covenant is about the advancement of God's kingdom. God's covenant is designed to produce progress in your life.
- Operating underneath His covenant precepts provides a covering, which will change what is allowed to directly impact you.
- Believers should keep together God's covenantal purposes (i.e. the spiritual) with their material, physical life. (see 3 John 1:2)

3. A STEWARD IS ENTRUSTED WITH RESOURCES TO MANAGE

"A certain nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.'" (Luke 19:12–13)

- Stewardship means God owns it all. The nobleman gave the slaves a portion of money from his coffers. The slaves didn't contribute anything. God created it all, so it's all His (see Revelation 4:11)
- Since God owns everything, everything we claim to

own is only ours relatively speaking. It is not ours absolutely speaking.

- The clearer you see God's hand in everything, the less problem you will have accepting His ownership and honoring that ownership.

4. GOD DOESN'T SHARE OWNERSHIP

- God does not share His ownership with anyone.
- Stewardship is treating the things we own as being on loan from the Lord. It is God who gives the power to increase your finances. (Deuteronomy 8:11–14, 17–18)
- A steward may not own what he has been given, but he is responsible for his management of it. (Genesis 1:26)
- We all have an equal measure of "life potential"—our time, talents, and treasure. (Luke 19:13)
- When the King comes back, He will only measure His servants against what He gave them. So Jesus Christ will not compare you to anyone else. You will only be evaluated against what He gave you.

5. INVEST WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

- We need to invest, not just spend. God wants us to invest what we have been given for the advancement of His kingdom.
- We are to be content without being passive. We are to be at ease where we are while simultaneously working diligently and trusting God to enable us to maximize our potential. (Proverbs 30:8; Philippians 4:11–12)
- "...our citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20) and that is where we will ultimately reside. So invest your life with an eternal perspective.

6. EVALUATING A STEWARD

- Jesus Christ will come again and call His people to account for their stewardship. (Luke 19:15)
- This day of evaluation for kingdom stewards is called "the judgment seat of Christ." (1 Corinthians 3)



- Christ will judge His people—not for salvation but for rewards based on our work as stewards. (2 Corinthians 5:10–11a)
- The Bible says whatever you have been given, make sure you give God His portion first. Be sure to honor Jesus Christ first so that He might have “first place in everything.” (Colossians 1:18)
- God wants your pattern to be that of using His resources to promote His kingdom of heaven on earth. When you put Him first, you will reap the rewards of His favor. (see 1 Corinthians 3:10–15)

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

COVENANT: U.S. citizens live underneath a covenantal document called The Constitution. This document is the umbrella under which the “kingdom” of the U.S.A. operates. The Constitution outlines rules and regulations, including freedoms, for the citizens living within its realm of influence.

STEWARDSHIP: Owning a home illustrates stewardship. People will often claim to own their homes when in all actuality they are merely stewards of what the bank owns. This is because if you have not yet finished paying for the home that you say that you own, the bank is the rightful owners of that home. We are just a steward over what someone else owns. (see Genesis 1:26)

INVESTING: When you go to a financial planner, he is going to talk to you about what you want to happen twenty, thirty or even forty years from now. He is going to advise you to save now so that you will have something to live on in the future when you can no longer work. He is going to force your perspective to be future-oriented.

What biblical principles of stewardship are trying to get you to do are no different. These principles are here to set you up for your retirement. You see, your ultimate retirement will be in heaven, and it will be a lot longer than your retirement on earth. What you do here on earth will play a large part in what you will enjoy and do while in heaven. When you invest in advancing the kingdom on earth, what you are doing is forwarding ahead that which has eternal value attached to it. You are thinking with a future-oriented mindset. You are laying up for yourself “treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal” (Matthew 6:20)

STEWARDSHIP EVALUATION: Everybody goes through some version of an annual review at work. Why do companies hold this review? Because the boss wants to know how well his employees have produced. For eight hours a day, forty hours a week, those employees are on the boss’s time. They are his stewards. They are on his agenda, accepting his money to produce work. The review will give the boss a chance to find out how productive the employees have been for the company.

BACKGROUND BIBLICAL HISTORY AND CULTURE:

COVENANT: “[This is] a formal agreement or treaty between two parties with each assuming some obligation....A covenant also might be imposed by a greater power upon a lesser one. The greater power demands loyalty and obligates itself to the protection of the lesser one...” (Harpers Bible Dictionary, 190) (Genesis 15)

BEMA SEAT: In Corinthian culture, the Bema seat was the place where judges convened to rule on court cases, or to judge athletic competitions. Those who won received honor and recognition. Those who lost had to stand by and witness the adulation given to those who had done well.

PARABLE: A parable is a story that is laid beside a principle in order to help the listener or reader better understand the principle. The story gives life and reality to the principle that God wants you to learn. The story helps you grab, feel, comprehend and ultimately live out the principle. Jesus regularly taught in parables in order to teach principles. (Matthew 25; Luke 19)

MINA: In the parable in Luke 19, the owner gave his ten slaves a mina apiece to operate with. A mina was an amount of money worth about three months’ salary for a common laborer in those days. This was a pretty substantial allotment.

BUSINESS: The Greek word for business here (πραγματεύσασθε) is the word from which we get the English word pragmatic. There’s nothing more pragmatic or practical in life than being a kingdom steward. Doing business for the King and His kingdom is using the life potential He has given us.

SERMON LINES:

This sermon will help you understand how to be good stewards, or managers, of what we have.



This sermon will outline biblical principles of stewardship that will help you attain to a life of financial victory.

This sermon will help you find eternal purpose in how you view your finances.

QUOTES BY DR. TONY EVANS:

"Friend, none of what you think you own do you really own. All that you own is really God's."

"God has a purpose when it comes to your finances."

"...any attempt you and I make to share ownership with God puts us on the side of Satan, because we are operating out of the same attitude of pride."

"The issue is not whether you will accept your stewardship but what you will do with it. The question is, what kind of business will you do with the Lord's property?"

"When you lose sight of the return of the Master, and you lose sight that one day you will have a conversation with him to talk about how you invested the resources put at your disposal, you have lost sight of everything that means anything at all."

"So the question is, Are you giving God's kingdom a quality return on the resources He has blessed you with? Or is God getting leftovers?"

"The issue of stewardship is not perfection. It is an issue of pattern."

