

CALL to PRAYER - Confession & courage about being a (an un)faithful steward - 1 Cor. 4:2

Intro - The subject matter for today is *Stewardship*, and stewardship is a big part of discipleship. As we learn to think and act Biblically, we begin to discipline our lives accordingly. We realize that all of life is a gift from God and He has leased us this life along with everything we have & use in it. And when the lease is up, we must give an account to Him who lent it to us. The text I am about to read in Luke 19 begins with Zaccheus. It is about Jesus saving a man and how a saved man becomes a giving man. Then the Savior does some teaching at Zaccheus' house - Story about a king (Jesus) who owns and rules everything (whether people want Him to or not). The King distributes His goods to His slaves to use until He returns. Upon His return the slaves must give an account for their management of the Kings property. Punishment or rewards are handed out

## **Luke 19:1-27 - Definitions 26 - What is Stewardship?**

### **WHAT IS STEWARDSHIP?**

- Stewardship is about ownership. Who has ownership and who only has temporary ownership
  - God owns it all 1 Cor. 10:26 - "The earth is the Lords and the fullness thereof"
    - Psalm 50:10-12 God created it all and owns it all
  - God gives (leases) to us a "temporary ownership" of His property
- God is the Creator & Owner, but He was pleased to place mankind here as manager
  - God made everything but puts us on earth to manage the place. Managers not owners
  - We brought nothing into this world and will take nothing out - 1 Tim. 6:7 1 Cor. 4:7
  - But while in this world God has given us all certain things
    - Life/breath...time/talent/ treasure...property/people...body & belongings
- The idea of stewardship comes out of a Master/slave relationship
  - The Master/Owner distributes his possessions to be managed by his slaves
  - God does not give everybody the same amount <sup>1 Sam. 2:7</sup> but all must give an account
  - Stewardship is management of what belongs to another. (temporary ownership)
  - Stewardship comes with great responsibility & accountability - 1 Cor.4:2 Rom. 14:12

### **STEWARDSHIP YOUR STUFF**

- Money is NOT the only part (or major part) of stewardship, but it is a part of stewardship
  - Any money/ wealth/ stuff we have is because God gave it to us -- Deut. 8:17-18
  - We are to manage the portion given to us wisely (Luke 16:10-12)
- We should give away a portion from what God has given to us. (payment is part of a lease)
  - God doesn't need it, but we need to give it. (giving is a reminding of Who does the owning)
  - 1 Chron. 29:14-16 (# 609 in blue hymnal is from this verse)
- We should give a percentage. What %? Is the tithe (10%) the golden rule for giving?
  - Before the Law - Abraham and Jacob gave 10% (bare bones basic even before Mosaic Law)
  - We should not get hung up on percentages - Zaccheus gave 50% The poor widow gave 100%
  - We should give as the Lord has prospered us. - 1 Cor. 16:2 Deut. 16:17 2 Cor. 8:12
  - We should give willingly, cheerfully and with feeling - 2 Cor. 9:7

- We should feel it when we give it. (some people don't feel it when they give it)
  - Their gift doesn't make a dent. Just a drop out of a very full bucket (video)
  - Giving should cost you something - 1 Chron. 21:23-25
  - Remember - *"To whom much is given much is required"* (Luke 12:48b) &
    - *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* (Acts 20:35)
- Tap into TAP giving.
  - Give using *The Agrarian Principle* (TAP) let it tap you on shoulder as you deliver your gift.
  - First fruits of harvest. (Prov. 3:9) We are not to give from the leftovers
    - If we don't give it, we will probably use it. Give off the top not from the bottom
  - The best of the flock -
    - not to give defective animals when we have better - (Mal. 1:7-8, 14)
      - young girl's show-cow recently sold for 300K+ (tempting not to give best)
    - JV McGee - *"Cleaning out the closet doesn't count"* Culls Don't Count
    - Buy something new (like for you) and give that
  - My little sister's purse she saved months for. I bet she felt it when she gave it

### ***STEWARDSHIP MORE THAN YOUR STUFF***

- ❖ Giving money/stuff is a given but stewardship involves much more than that
  - We should faithfully steward every aspect of this life that has been leased to us
  - Life/breath/health....time/talent/treasure....property/people...physical/spiritual
- ❖ Time is a precious commodity give to us...we are to manage it wisely
  - Eph. 5:15-16 we are to redeem the time & understand the time - 1 Chron. 12:32
  - Birthday last week - much more sand has run through my hourglass than is left
  - Tithe your time - 2.4 hrs. a day (1.5 waking) 1 day in 7 is already required
    - Would it make a difference in your life to tithe time and kept sabbath?
  - We should have an eternal perspective about possessions & people - 1 Cor. 7:29-31
    - One day our time will be up and then time to give account for our time
- ❖ Steward the gospel and your spiritual gifts.
  - The apostle Paul was weighted with the responsibility of stewarding the gospel
    - 1 Cor. 4:1-2(3-5) Col. 1:25 (Eph. 3:1-3)
    - Pastors are stewards of God & His gospel (Titus 1:7) responsibility & accountability
  - All Christians are to steward their spiritual gifts 1 Peter 4:10-11
    - There are speaking gifts & serving gifts. We are to steward them well
    - What is your spiritual gift and how are you stewarding it?

### ***STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR SOUL***

- We will only take out of this world what we brought into this world - body/soul/spirit
  - We often fret about our body and our stuff. (steward the whole self; the whole person)
  - We are more than a body and our life is more than our body and our stuff
- Parable of The Rich Fool Luke 12:16-21
  - He had it all but lost it all. He stewarded the soil well...but not his soul
  - *"What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world....?"* (Mark 8:36-37) 2 Cor. 8:9