

# FIRM FOUNDATION CLASS



## How To Be A Good Steward Lesson 11

## HOW TO BE A GOOD STEWARD

*John 3:16* is perhaps the greatest verse in the Bible. In it we find God's plan of salvation for the world. We find the means of salvation - the vicarious death of Christ. We find the motive of salvation - love. We also find the proof of God's love - "God so loved that He gave." Someone has said you can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. We discover the same truth in spiritual things, that as we love God we will give to Him. In this lesson, we will study what the Bible says about stewardship and how we can be good stewards.

To be a good steward we will have to remember the following points:

### I. EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

- A. "...For all the earth is mine" (*Exodus 19:5*)
- B. "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (*Psalms 24:1*).

God says the world is His and all it contains, including us. According to *Deuteronomy 32:6*, there are two reasons why everything belongs to God: (1) By right of creation. He made everything, so everything belongs to Him. (2) By right of redemption. He bought us with the blood of Christ. "...You are not your own; you were bought at a price..." (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20*). When we recognize that everything we have belongs to God, it will help us to be the stewards we ought to be.

### II. GOD HAS MADE US THE MANAGERS OF HIS POSSESSIONS

- A. *Matthew 21:33-34* - This Scripture contains the account of the owner of a vineyard going on a trip and leaving the vineyard to be cared for by his servants. Later on, he sent back men to get fruit from his vineyard. He expected dividends from his workers,
- B. *Matthew 25:14-30* - The parable of the talents.
- C. *Luke 19:11-28* - The parable of the pounds.

In the last two accounts the Master leaves different sums of money with his servants and departs on a journey. When the master returns, he blesses those servants who had multiplied their capital and punishes those servants who did nothing.

### III. WE WILL GIVE AN ACCOUNT TO GOD FOR OUR MANAGEMENT

"So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God." (*Romans 14:12*).

All of us will stand before God to answer for the way we managed what He gave us. The Bible shows we will account for:

#### A. How We Used Our Time

"Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil." (*Ephesians 5:15-16*),

#### B. How We Worked

"Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free." (*Ephesians 6:7-8*).

#### C. What We Talked About

"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken." (*Matthew 12:36*).

#### D. How We Spent Our Money

1. God commands that we give our tithe. – *Malachi* 3:10
2. God is pleased with our freewill offerings above our tithes. - II *Corinthians* 8:1-5
  - v. 2 - "... The riches of their liberality..." These Christians were not wealthy in possessions, but rich in their generosity.
  - v. 3 - They gave "...beyond their power..." These Christians gave beyond what they could afford and trusted God to take care of them.
  - v. 4 - "... Praying...that we would receive the gift..." The Macedonian Christians asked for the opportunity to share in God's work through giving.
  - v. 5 - "... First gave their own selves to the Lord..." The key to good stewardship is first of all belonging completely to God, then we can truly give unselfishly.
3. God is interested in how we spend the remainder of our money after we give our tithes and offerings

*Luke* 15:11-32 contains the parable of the prodigal son. The prodigal son was the object of Christ's lesson, not just because he left home, but also because he wasted his resources in riotous living.

*Luke* 16:1-3 shows the shrewd steward was punished for wasting his master's goods.

#### E. How We Used Our Gifts

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (*I Peter* 4:10).

The spiritual gifts we possess should be used for God and the spreading of the Gospel. We will give an account of how we use our gifts.

#### F. How Well We Witnessed

"On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts." (*I Thessalonians* 2:4).

God has entrusted the Gospel to us, and we must share the "good news." We will answer to God one day on how good we witnessed to others.

### IV. GOD IS INTERESTED IN WHAT WE HAVE WHEN WE GIVE

- A. The Parable of the Talents - *Matthew* 25:14-30  
The Parable of the Pounds - *Luke* 19:11-28

These two parables seem to be almost identical, except for the amount of money involved. A pound of gold is worth \$15; a talent of gold is worth \$26,280. God is showing us He is as interested in how the \$15 man spends his money as He is in how the \$26,280 man spends his money.

- B. One day Jesus was watching people as they gave their offerings, as He always does. He saw a poor widow put in 2 mites, which is less than four cents. Jesus then turned to the disciples and said she had given more than all the rich that day. Why? Because she had given out of her poverty. *Mark* 12:41-44

**V. GOD IS INTERESTED IN OUR ATTITUDE AS WE GIVE**

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (*II Corinthians 9:7*).

**VI. GOD WILL REWARD AND PUNISH IN RELATION TO THE JOB WE HAVE DONE**

" But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. (*Luke 12:48*).

**VII. GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF US AS WE GIVE TO HIM**

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (*Matthew 6:33*).

**VIII. THE CHIEF QUALITY REQUIRED OF A STEWARD IS FAITHFULNESS**

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." (*I Corinthians 4:2*).

Stewards are not rewarded for their production, as seen in the parable of the talents. The steward who increased five talents was rewarded the same as the steward who increased two talents. The stewards were rewarded for their faithfulness to the task.