

Often when the subject of stewardship is mentioned, the mind naturally thinks about money—that is faithfulness in tithe and offerings. While Bible believing Christians will return an honest tithe and offering to the Lord, stewardship encompasses much more than money. Stewardship is a way of life. It is a partnership with God. God is the owner, and we, His creatures, are managers of His goods and resources. He has entrusted His people with the responsibility to attend to and care for that which is rightfully His. The subject of stewardship cannot be emphasized enough. All must give an account of how we managed our time, talents, and treasures. Are we investing for eternity, or are we investing in that which will soon perish away? Are we hoarding, or are we giving? Are we selfish, or are we selfless? Are we faithful or unfaithful? God is calling us to faithfulness in our stewardship. May we render our best service to our Creator—The Giver and Maker of all things. Let's study and learn What God Says About…"Stewardship."

GOD IS THE OWNER

1. According to David, what belongs to the Lord?

[1]"_____ _____ is the LORD'S, and _____ _____ _____; _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____. [2]For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods." *Psalm 24:1, 2*

2. According to the Lord, everything under what is His?

"Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? whatsoever is under _____ _____ _____ is mine." *Job 41:11*

Note: *Indeed, God is the owner of everything throughout the length and breadth of the world. Therefore, everything from the north to the south and from the east to the west all belong to God. We didn't bring anything into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out of this world (1 Timothy 6:7).*

MANAGERS OF GOD'S GOODS

3. According to Genesis 1:26, what did God give Adam and Eve dominion over?

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and over _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and over _____ _____, and over _____ _____ _____, and over _____ _____ _____ that creepeth upon the earth." *Genesis 1:26*

Note: *God gave Adam and Eve—all of humanity for that matter, rulership over his created works. They were to manage or be faithful stewards over that which God entrusted to their care. Stewards are managers over someone else's goods—spiritually speaking, over God's goods.*

4. Where did God place Adam? What responsibility did God give Adam in the garden?

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ to _____ _____ and to _____ _____." *Genesis 2:15*

Note: *In Genesis 2:15, the Bible indicates that God placed Adam in "the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." His responsibility was to attend to and care for the garden. Obviously, Eve would be expected to care for the garden as well upon being created. They were both to be stewards of the garden where God placed them.*

5. Referring to God's wealth, the earth is full of what?

[23]"Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening. [24]O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of _____ _____." *Psalm 104:23, 24*

PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

6. What is the only way that God and man can walk together in partnership?

"Can two walk together, except _____ _____ _____?" *Amos 3:3*

Note: *God and man are to be in partnership throughout the Christian experience. This includes the area of stewardship.*

7. **If we walk in the light of God's truth, what will we experience with God?**

[6]"If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: [7]But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have _____ _____ _____ _____, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." *1 John 1:6, 7*

8. **According to the apostle Paul, faithful believers actively labor together with whom?**

"For we are labourers together with _____: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." *1 Corinthians 3:9*

Note: *The apostle Paul is indicating that the Corinthians were to be co-laborers with God in the work of building the kingdom. God will not perform the work alone, and we cannot accomplish the work of soul winning without the Lord's help. Hence, God and man are co-laborers in the work of ministry. The word husbandry in 1 Corinthians 3:9 refers to a field. Therefore, Paul is saying that the Corinthian church is the Lord's field in which God produces fruit for His kingdom.*

JESUS—HEAVEN'S SUPREME GIFT

9. **Who did God give to the world?**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave _____ _____ _____ _____, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." *John 3:16*

10. **What did Jesus become for our sakes? He did this so that we might be what?**

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became _____, that ye through his poverty might be _____." *2 Corinthians 8:9*

11. **According to 2 Corinthians 9:15, we are to thank God for his what?**

"Thanks be unto God for his _____ _____." *2 Corinthians 9:15*

Note: *Stewards not only manage, but they also give of their means and of themselves to benefit others. In other words, stewards make sacrifices to enrich the lives of others. Jesus owns everything, yet as heaven's supreme gift, He died for a sinful world. Stewards give because Jesus gave all for us.*

GIVING—OUR HEART RESPONSE TO LOVE

Note: *Stewards are to form the habit of giving from a heart touched by the love God demonstrated on Calvary. Giving helps to banish selfishness from our hearts. We are naturally selfish and often tend to hoard the blessings of God for ourselves. Realizing that there will always be people in need, Christians are to prayerfully do their part to assist those who are in need, as far as possible.*

12. According to the apostle John, why do we love God?

"We love him, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *1 John 4:19*

13. Christians are to give as they purpose in their what? Who does God love?

6"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. 7Every man according as he purposeth in his _____, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth _____ _____ _____." *2 Corinthians 9:6, 7*

14. Regarding the building of the wilderness tabernacle, how were the people to give their offering to the Lord?

1"And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it _____ _____ _____ _____ ye shall take my offering." *Exodus 25:1, 2*

15. According to Jesus, what is it more blessed to do?

"I have showed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to _____ _____ _____ _____." *Acts 20:35*

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL

16. Into what territory were the disciples commanded to go and preach the gospel? To whom is the gospel to be preached?

"And he said unto them, Go ye into _____ _____ _____, and preach the gospel to _____ _____." *Mark 16:15*

17. Seeing that the disciples received the gospel freely, how were they to dispense the gospel?

[7]"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. [8]Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, _____ give." *Matthew 10:7, 8*

18. What does the apostle Paul call the gospel that is contained in earthen vessels of believers?

"But we have _____ _____ in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." *2 Corinthians 4:7*

Note: *Christians carry the treasure of the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ in clay jars or earthen vessels. Although we are sinful and frail, we are in possession of the greatest treasure that the world can receive. As stewards, entrusted with the gospel message, we are to share the treasure of Christ and His saving message to every person on this earth.*

19. Ministers of Christ are stewards of what? Stewards of God's Word are required to be what?

[1]"Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of _____ _____ _____ _____. [2]Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found _____." *1 Corinthians 4:1, 2*

Note: *God calls stewards of the gospel to be faithful both in living the gospel and spreading the gospel.*

TITHE AND OFFERING A GOSPEL REQUIREMENT

20. In what way has God been robbed? What does God instruct us to bring into the storehouse?

[7]". . . Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? [8]Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? _____ _____ _____ _____. [9]Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. [10]Bring ye _____ _____ _____ into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." *Malachi 3:7-10*

Note: *While stewardship neither begins nor ends with money, God does require His people to return a faithful tithe and offering. Tithe means tenth. The tenth is to be returned, not on the net, but on the gross amount of the wages received. According to Proverbs 3:9 and 10, we are to honor the Lord with the first fruits of our increase. In other words, we tithe off the top of the gifts that God gives us. The offering amount is not specified. We are to give a freewill offering in heart response to God's goodness toward us.*

21. According to Leviticus 27:30, what is all the tithe of the Lord called?

"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is _____ unto the LORD." *Leviticus 27:30*

22. Jesus rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees for neglecting the weightier matters of the law, but still required them to pay or return what?

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay _____ of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." *Matthew 23:23*

Note: *In Matthew 23:23, Jesus emphasized that tithing is binding in the New Testament and that it ought not to be left undone. Christians are required to return tithe and offerings today.*

23. We are not to lay up treasures where? In contrast, where are we to lay up treasures?

[19]"Lay not up for yourselves treasures _____ _____, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: [20]But lay up for yourselves treasures _____ _____, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: [21]For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." *Matthew 6:19-21*

STEWARDS—CALLED INTO ACCOUNT

24. What was the unjust steward accused of doing with his master's resources?

"And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had _____ _____ _____." *Luke 16:1*

Note: *The owner, a certain rich man, learned that the unjust steward was wasting and misappropriating his resources, so he called him into account.*

25. What was the unjust steward required to give account of? The rich man would no longer permit him to be what?

"And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of _____ _____; for thou mayest be no longer _____." *Luke 16:2*

26. The unjust steward schemed to prepare for the time when he would be fired or put out of what? Where did he want those whom he would "obligate" to himself to receive him?

3"Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. 4I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of _____ _____, they may receive me _____ _____ _____." *Luke 16:3, 4*

27. How many of his master's debtors did the unjust steward call or summon? What question did he ask each regarding the debt they owed to the master?

"So he called _____ _____ of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, _____ _____ _____ _____ unto my lord?" *Luke 16:5*

Note: *The dishonest steward, seeking to obligate the workers to himself before he was fired, would reduce the amount of debt on their bills.*

28. What dishonest amount did the unjust steward tell the first debtor to quickly write on his bill? What did he tell the next debtor to write on his bill?

6"And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write _____. 7Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write _____." *Luke 16:6, 7*

29. Why did the master or rich man praise the unjust steward? According to Jesus, who is wiser than the children of light?

8"And the lord commended the unjust steward, because _____ _____ _____ _____: for _____ _____ _____ _____ are in their generation wiser than the children of light. 9And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations." *Luke 16:8, 9*

Note: *As Jesus is telling this parable to his disciples, He is not commending the unjust steward for his scheming behavior. The rich man in the story is the lord or owner who commends the unjust steward. The rich man praised the dishonest steward for his wit and forethought in attempting to plan for his uncertain future and then fired him. Obviously, the unjust steward wasn't a good record keeper. However, he was clever and methodical in his dishonest scheme of obligating those to whom he did favors to provide a shelter for him after he would be fired. If he would have been as diligent in being honest, keeping good records, and caring for his master's goods, he would not have been fired. Jesus is saying that if the unrighteous are this diligent in securing their earthly future, the just should be wiser and more diligent in securing eternal riches. Ultimately, we will be called into account for our stewardship.*

30. According to Jesus, those who are faithful in the least, will be faithful also in what? Furthermore, those who are unjust in the least will be unjust in what?

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in _____: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in _____." *Luke 16:10*

31. Ultimately, what type of riches does Jesus desire to commit to the trust of His stewards?

[11]"If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust _____ _____ riches? [12]And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?" *Luke 16:11, 12*

32. According to Jesus, we cannot serve what?

"No servant can serve _____ _____: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." *Luke 16:13*

SUMMARY

A steward manages someone else's goods. God is the owner, and we are His stewards. Stewardship is a way of life. It is a partnership with God. God and man are to be co-laborers in the work of ministry. Jesus is heaven's supreme gift who sacrificed His life for the world. He owns everything, yet He gave His life for a sinful world. Stewards are to give out of a heart of love because Jesus gave all for us. As a result, giving will help banish selfishness from our hearts. Although stewardship neither begins nor ends with money, God does require us to return a faithful tithe and offering. Ultimately, we will be called into account for our stewardship.

33. Dear friend, are you willing to enter into partnership with God and be a faithful steward of His goods? _____

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