

Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

"How to be a Successful Steward

Living Like Jesus is coming Back Today!"

Luke 12:35-48 (NKJV); The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant

35 "Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; 36 and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. 37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. 38 And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. 39 But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 40 Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

41 Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?"

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season?"

43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. 45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

How to be a Successful Steward

Living Like Jesus is Coming Back Today

7 Life Changing Stewardship Strategies

1. **Live your daily life with a sense of expectant _____** (v. 35-40).
 - What does urgency look like?
 - Be ready for immediate _____: *Girded waist*

Scripture Insight: *Be dressed ready.* Lit. "Let your waist be girded up"; long outer robes would have to be tucked up to allow legs to move quickly. Jesus borrows the language of Israel preparing for deliverance in [Ex 12:11](#).¹

- Be spiritually _____ and aware: **Burning lamps**
- Urgency is a hopeful anticipation like a Groom returning from a wedding feast (v. 36).
- Urgency is like a watchful eye waiting for the return of a loved one (v. 37-38).
- Urgency is like a prepared home owner who is ready for the unexpected (v. 39-40).

Mark 13:35-36; ³⁵ Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. ³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

→ Christ's return is certain, but the time is not known to us...so be ready (v. 40).

2. **Those who serve Jesus _____ now will be _____ by Jesus later** (v. 37).

- You guys want to discover one of the most beautiful promises about serving the Lord? For those who have faithfully served Jesus now will one day be served by Jesus later.

Luke 22:27; For who *is* greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? *Is* it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves.

Mark 10:45; For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

- One day those who serve here on earth will be served in heaven! What is the marriage supper of the lamb?

Doctrine Insight: Jesus has both a first and a second coming. Jesus First Coming was to shower us with grace by dying to pay the price for our sins. Jesus Second Coming will be to reward the righteous and judge the wicked. His Second Coming is in two stages: The rapture of the church followed by His Second Coming to the earth to establish His Kingdom.

¹ Quote from NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible.

2 Corinthians 5:10; For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

3. **Take personal _____ for what God has called me to do without trying to "pass the _____" to someone else (v. 41)!**

- When we are challenged with our stewardship, we often respond like Peter—is this for me...or is it for someone else?
- Stewardship is a personal responsibility. Only I can give account of my stewardship to God.
- The entire world will be judged. For the lost person, the judgment will be severe (v. 45), for the Christian, the judgment will be based upon rewards or loss of rewards.

Romans 14:12--So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

4. **Remember that your Father generously _____ tenacious _____ (v. 42-44).**

- If you have been faithful in smaller things, God will promote you to leadership in greater things.

2 Timothy 2:12; If we endure,
We shall also reign with *Him*.

Romans 8:17- If children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

→Read I Corinthians 3:10-15 for a passage that deals with the Believer's judgment before Christ.

- Blessed are those continue to serve even when they want to give up (v. 43).

Galatians 6:9; Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

- Faithful servants eventually get promoted for greater opportunity in the Kingdom (v. 44).

5. **Don't get stuck in the doldrums of _____ (v. 45).**

- There is a warning in this parable: A lack of urgency can promote apathy.
What are some of the things that distract us from being a successful steward?

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|--|
| 1) Losing your sense of _____ concerning the things of God. |
| 2) Losing your _____ for those that God has placed in your life. |

3) Losing your _____ so that you do stupid and sinful things: Eating too much and drinking too much. Gluttony and drunkenness are the antithesis to being a good steward of you body and your mind.

6. **Run away from _____ since obedience is required in stewardship** (v. 46).
- Keep being faithful because Jesus could come back at a time when you are not expecting him.
 - Stewards are either faithful in the end or unfaithful.
 - So what is the deal with verse 46 about an unfaithful servant being cut into pieces and assigned a place with the unbelievers?
7. **Do all you can with all that God has given to you** (v. 47-48).
- God will judge us based upon what light we have.
 - i. Greater light=greater accountability
 - ii. Less light=less accountability
 - Three levels of punishment are mentioned here:

Matthew 10:15; Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

- **The slogan of stewardship:** To whom much is given, much more is required. To whom much is committed, must more will be asked.

Christ Connection: The greatest stewardship question that you will have to give account for is *what did you do with Jesus?*

Today's Big Take-away: Successful Stewards are those who are ready and actively waiting for the return of Jesus Christ.

Action Steps:

1. Live today like Jesus was coming back today, because He could!
2. Ask a trusted friend or family member how they think you are doing with your stewardship of all that God has entrusted to your oversight.
3. Evaluate your stewardship in the following areas: My time, my talents, my resources, my relationship, and my service.

Revelation 22:12-Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to His work.