

Biblical Finances: Our Part – God’s Stewards

Biblical Finances Our Part: God’s Stewards Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "For *the kingdom of heaven* is like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.

¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.

¹⁷ And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also.

¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'

²¹ His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

²⁴ Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.

²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.'

²⁶ "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.

²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.

²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

²⁹ 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Introduction:

A. What a contrast!

1. **Society says:** You earned your money, now spend it any way you choose and you'll be happy
2. **Scripture says:** You can only be content if you have been a faithful steward handling money from the Lord's perspective.

B. Feeling Responsible

1. Have you ever felt, after God has done something special in your life, "I'm supposed to do something."
 - a) We cannot just sit back, do nothing and wait for God to perform.
 - b) We have a responsibility when God works in our lives and we need to know exactly what our part is.
2. God, the Master, is the owner of everything, the controller of all events and our provider.
 - a) Our responsibility is to be a steward.
 - b) The word for *steward* can be translated into two different words: *manager* and *supervisor*.
 - c) In Scripture the position of a steward is one of great responsibility.
 - d) He or she is the supreme authority under the master and has full responsibility for all the master's possessions and household affairs.
3. A steward's only responsibility is to be faithful.
 - a) As we examine Scripture we see that God, as Master, has given us the authority to be stewards.
 - b) 1 Corinthians 4:2 *Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.*
 - c) *Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.* Matthew 25:21
4. Before we can be faithful, we must know what we are required to do.
 - a) The Bible tells us how He wants us to handle His possessions.
 - b) Several elements of faithfulness are important to understand.

I. Being Faithful

A. Faithful With All Our Resources – Hosea 4:6

1. We are charged to be faithful in handling 100 percent, not just 10 percent.

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- a) Unfortunately, many churches have concentrated only on teaching how to handle 10 percent of our income - the area of giving.
- b) Although this area is crucial, we have allowed Christians to learn how to handle the other 90 percent from the world's perspective, not from our Lord's perspective.
2. Hosea 4:6 *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."*
 - a) Because they do not know how to handle money biblically, many Christians have wrong attitudes about possessions.
 - b) Then they make incorrect financial decisions that lead to painful consequences.
 - c) Ignorance of or disobedience to scriptural financial principles frequently causes money problems.

B. Faithful Regardless of How Much We Have – Matthew 25:14-15, 21, 23

1. The issue in Scripture is how to handle faithfully all God has entrusted to us.
2. The faithful steward is responsible for what he or she has, whether it is much or little.
3. The parable of the talents illustrates this.
 - a) *"For it is just like a man about to go on a journey, who called his own servants, and entrusted his possessions to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one. . ."* (Matthew 25:14-15).
 - b) When the master returned, he held each servant accountable for managing his possessions faithfully
 - c) The master commended the faithful servant who received the five talents: *"Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master"* (Matthew 25:21).
 - d) Interestingly, the servant who had been given two talents received a reward equal to that given to the servant who had been given the five talents (Matthew 25:23).
4. We are required to be faithful whether we are given much or little.
5. As someone once said, "It's not what I would do if one million dollars were my lot; it's what I am doing with the ten dollars I've got."

C. Faithful in Little Things – Luke 16:10

1. Luke 16:10 *"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much."*
2. How do you know if a child is going to take good care of his first car?
 - a) Watch how he cared for his bicycle!
3. How do you know if a salesperson will do a competent job of serving a large client?
 - a) Watch how he or she served a small client.
4. If we have the character to be faithful with small things, the Lord knows He can trust us with greater responsibilities.
5. Hudson Taylor - "Small things are small things, but faithfulness with a small thing is a big thing."

D. Faithful with Another's Possessions – Luke 6:12

1. *"And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?"* Luke 16:12
2. Faithfulness with another's possessions will, in some measure, determine the amount with which you are entrusted.
 - a) This is a principle that is often overlooked.
 - b) Are you faithful with another's possessions?
 - c) Are you careless with your employer's office supplies?
 - d) Do you waste electricity when you are staying in a motel room?
 - e) When someone allows you to use something, are you careful to return it in good shape?
3. Some people have not been given more because they have been unfaithful with the possessions of others.

II. What Faithfulness Does

A. Faithfulness Builds Character – Romans 5:3-4; Hebrews 13:5

1. God often uses money to refine our character.
 - a) Romans 5:3-4 ³*And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope.*