

# Stewardship

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Mt 25:14-30

# This Is Important!

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- Matthew 25:14 “For it will be like...”
  - **What “will be like”?**
- Matthew 25:1 “Then the **kingdom of heaven** will be like ...”
  - It relates to your salvation, your eternity
  - How you take care of things **here** will impact your future!

# Outline

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- A. Stewardship (not Ownership)
- B. Responsibility
- C. Accountability
- D. Reward



# A. Stewardship

Matthew 25:14-15

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- “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his **servants** and **entrusted** to them his property.”
- “To one he gave **five** talents, to another **two**, to another **one**, to **each according to his ability**. Then he went away.”



# It all belongs to God

## Deuteronomy 10:12-14

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- “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to **fear** the LORD your God, to **walk** in all his ways, to **love** him, to **serve** the LORD your God with all your **heart** and with all your **soul**, **13** and to **keep** the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?
- **14** Behold, to the LORD your God **belong** heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.

# All Things Are Given from Heaven

John 3:27

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- “A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is **given** him from heaven.”

# You Didn't Make It!

## Deuteronomy 8:17-20

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- **17** Beware lest you say in your heart, '**My power** and the might of **my hand** have gotten me this **wealth**.'
- **18** You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you **power to get wealth**, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.
- **19** And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I **solemnly warn you today** that you shall surely perish. **20** Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.



# B. Responsibility

## Matthew 25:16-18

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- **16** He who had received the five talents went at once and **traded** with them, and he **made** five talents more.
- **17** So also he who had the two talents **made** two talents more.
- **18** But he who had received the one talent went and **dug** in the ground and **hid** his master's money.



# Work It! Tend It! Protect It!

## Genesis 2:15

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- “The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to **work** it and **keep** it.”
  - Work, serve, labor, do, worship, minister, to be plowed, cultivated, **serve**
  - Keep, watch, observe, guard, to be careful (care for), beware; **tend**

# Serve as Good Stewards

1 Peter 4:10-11

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- **10** As each has received a **gift**, use it to **serve** one another, as good **stewards** of God's varied grace: **11** whoever speaks, as one who speaks **oracles of God**; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that **God supplies**—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

# Servants & Stewards

## 1 Corinthians 4:1-2

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- **1** This is how one should regard us, as **servants** of Christ and **stewards** of the mysteries of God. **2** Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be **found faithful**.

# Entrusted With a Stewardship

1 Corinthians 9:17

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- “For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still **entrusted** with a **stewardship**.”

Owners have **rights**,

Stewards have **responsibilities**



## C. Accountability (1)

Matthew 25:19

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- **19** Now after a long time the master of those servants came and **settled accounts with them.**
  - We, as **stewards**, have to give an account
  - Judged if we managed according to the principles established by the **owner**

## C. Accountability (2)

### Matthew 25:20-23

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- **20** And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' **21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'
- **22** And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' **23** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'
  - Although the totals were different (10 and 4),
  - The response from the Master (God) is the same!

## C. Accountability (3)

### Matthew 25:24-27

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- **24** He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘**Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25** so I **was afraid**, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’
- **26** But his master answered him, ‘**You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.’
  - Failed to act, because of fear
  - Didn’t **use** or **care** for what he was entrusted
  - Didn’t take responsibility for it [“What is yours” not “What I was entrusted”]

# Test, Scrutinize Your Own Stewardship

## Galatians 6:1-5

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- Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. **2** Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. **3** For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
- **4** But let each one **test his own work**, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.
- **5** For each will have to bear his own load.



## D. Reward/Punishment

Matthew 25:28-30

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- **29** For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **30** And cast the **worthless servant** into the outer darkness. In that place there will be **weeping** and **gnashing** of teeth.'



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## Colossians 3:22-25

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- **22 Bondservants, obey** in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of **eye-service**, as **people-pleasers**, but with **sincerity of heart**, fearing the Lord.
- **23** Whatever you do, **work heartily**, as for the Lord and not for men, **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the **inheritance** as your **reward**. You are **servicing** the Lord Christ. **25** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

# Need vs. Want?

## 1 Timothy 6:6-10

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- **6** But godliness with **contentment** is great gain, **7** for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world.
- **8** But if we have **food** and **clothing**, with these we will be **content**.
- **9** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. **10** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

# Rules of Three

Rank	Hazard	Time	Needs
1	Death from <b>Severe Injury</b> [loss of blood, circulation, respiration]	<b>3 Minutes</b>	<b>First Aid</b>
2	Death from <b>Exposure</b> [hypothermia (cold) or hyperthermia (heat)]	<b>3 Hours</b>	<b>Shelter, Fire</b> [Rain Gear, Clothing, Sleep Comfort]
3	Death from <b>Dehydration</b> [Thirst, also systemic infection, e.g., unclean wound]	<b>3 Days *</b>	<b>Clean Water</b>
4	Death from <b>Starvation</b> [Hunger]	<b>3 Weeks #</b>	<b>Food</b>
5	Death from <b>Disease</b>	<b>3 Months +</b>	<b>Sanitation, Sewage</b>

\* Minimum time (**72 hours**) that most agencies (e.g., Red Cross, FEMA, DHS) recommend having supplies packed to prepare for emergencies.

# Light, navigation, and communication (to facilitate rescue) are generally more immediate needs than food.

+ Typical government response time for public shelters or temporary housing; recovery after a major solar event could take 3-6 months or more.

# What Have You Been Given?

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- What are your talents (**literal:** money, material wealth, property, education, opportunity)?
- What are your as in gifts? What are your strengths, what are you good at doing, what skills do you have?
- What have been given by parents, ancestors, friends, education, purchase, others' sacrifice?
- What do you take for granted, think you "earned", or do you think you deserve more?

# How is Your Stewardship?

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- How do you care for what you have been given?
- Do you make things last? Are you adding value? Showing a return, a gain?
- What about God's Word – is it buried somewhere? Or are you working it, careful to watch and observe, cultivating your spiritual fruit?
- Do you recognize your blessings as gifts from God? Do you count yourself as blessed?
- How are you using them for the kingdom?
- Are you investing in **eternity**?

Happy  
Memorial  
Day

Your day at the beach



Is because of their day at the beach