Stewardship of Time Pt 2 sermon for 1-8-17

# **Introduction to the Concept of Stewardship**

The insidious, deeply-held deception that is probably the greatest disease of humanity is that our lives, times, and possessions belong to us.

An arrogance arises from this disease that leads us further away from our Creator. We become more and more independent of His guidance. We become more and more frightened that if we don’t do it, no one will—that if we fail, then all is lost.

The antidote to our anxiety, frustration, and isolation is stewardship.

## **3 Tenets of Stewardship**

1. **All we have at our disposal and all our blessings are assets of God on loan to us.**
2. **He expects us to care for these blessings and make profit for Him.**
3. **It’s not all about you and your stuff; it’s about God and His stuff!**

For the whole month of January we will be learning about living the life of a faithful steward of God’s things.

We will cover what it is to be a faithful steward of time, health, family, influence, our local church, and money.

# **Key Stewardship Principles**

**If you faithfully steward the little things you have now, you will be given more in the future.**

# **Matthew 25:21** (NKJV)

**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.’

**How you are now with the little you must steward would only broaden in scope if you had a lot.**

# **Luke 16:10** (NKJV)

**10**He who *is* faithful in *what is* least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in *what is* least is unjust also in much.

# **Stewardship of Time**

## **Review Understanding Seasons**

# **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** (NKJV)

**We must steward the time given to us because our Father in Heaven deals with time prudently.**

**To everything, there is a boundary, a phase, a purpose, an agenda, a goal that God has established.**

**Understanding the season requires trust in the Lord that He has ordained a purpose for your seasons and an end to your current season.**

**Seasons are appointed times meant to execute God’s order or will.**

When you co-operate with God’s order for your time, you fulfill righteousness, when you react inappropriately for your season, then you step out of the will of God which results in a formation of disorder, confusion, and sin.

## **Let’s Talk Time**

**Time is a container of action; therefore, the stewardship of our time is a stewardship of our actions.**

Your time container (the span of your life) will be filled with some action even if it is unintentional action.

Unintentional, unguided action is never God-pleasing because every act of God is intentional.

Poor stewardship of time is allowing the time container of your life to be filled with or choosing any action other than what God wants you to do.

**Stewarding our time well means filling our time with actions that God wants us to do—His will.**

Even if that means to rest…

## **Understanding God’s Sovereignty**

1. God wants us to show initiative in planning and action.

**God does not require a passive will for His will to be done; in fact, He requires an active will that chooses to agree with His will.**

God doesn’t want us to be robots just following orders and protocol; He longs for us to willingly choose to make His will our highest priority.

1. God wants us to remember that His plans will ultimately be done.

# **Proverbs 16:1-3 and 9** (NKJV)

The preparations of the heart *belong* to man,  
But the answer of the tongue *is* from the Lord.

**2**All the ways of a man *are* pure in his own eyes,  
But the Lord weighs the spirits.

**3**Commit your works to the Lord,  
And your thoughts will be established.

**9**A man’s heart plans his way,  
But the Lord directs his steps.

**Although we have the responsibility and power to make plans and act, it is wrong to run your life without acknowledging God’s sovereignty.**

It is a prideful mistake to make plans without admitting that our best plans will fall short of what reality will be. It never goes perfectly!

God is often the One responsible for our days not going according to plan.

* He wants to teach us important things.
* We must see what He is up to and adjust our attitudes accordingly.
* If this happens repeatedly, then we need to go back to the drawing board and find out how we are missing the mark with God.

We must make plans with the humble understanding and intention to submit to God’s sovereign power in our lives to cause things to change without our permission.

**So how do we do our due diligence to steward our time wisely with God’s plans in mind?**

* Get to know who God is
  + His personality
  + His likes and dislikes
  + His endgame
* Seek out God’s will
  + Pray and ask
    - Just know that many times when we pray and ask a direct question about what to do, God often times responds by asking us to inspect our motivations.
      * **God weighs our motivations; and if we can see His righteous judgments about our motivations, we will become righteous in our planning which leads to our plans making Him happy.**
      * If we can plan God-pleasing plans, the stewardship of our time becomes efficient because we are working with instead of against the One who will ultimately get His way.
  + Wait and see
  + Get counsel
* Make plans with an open ear to His Spirit
  + Compatible with who God is and what He likes
  + Compatible with God’s endgame
* Work those plans with an open ear to His Spirit
* Change your plans to match God’s will whenever you hear or see from God that you are going down the wrong path.

## **Stewarding Time looks like**

1. Setting Goals
2. Moment by moment decisions
3. Managing and planning a calendar and tasks
   1. Keeping it
   2. Priorities (strategy)
4. Taking Orders (faith)
   1. From the Holy Spirit
   2. From His delegated authorities