

# Stewardship Opportunities

## Part 1: Identify the Stewardship Opportunity

- ❖ Stewards are trusted
  - We often get off track because we forget that nothing belongs to us. Let's look at the word used for "steward".
    - Oikonomos - the manager of household or of household affairs  
1a) especially a steward, manager, superintendent (whether free-born as was usually the case, a freed-man or a slave) to whom the head of the house or proprietor has intrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures, and the duty of dealing out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children not yet of age. (Thayer's Greek Definitions)
- ❖ Stewards must be found faithful – 1 Cor. 4:2
  - Faithfulness is not proven via a statement, but by actions and how opportunities are handled
  - Being found faithful
    - After the attention fades
    - After the newness goes away
    - After the affirmations slow or disappear entirely
    - After the easy part is gone -
    - After the discouragement begins
- ❖ None of it belongs to you – 1 Tim. 6:7; Deut. 8:17-18
- ❖ In every situation, you and I must learn to identify the stewardship opportunities
  - We all have been given gifts to steward – 1 Peter 4:7-11;
- ❖ God does not give you stewardship over more than you can handle – Mat. 25:14-15
- ❖ Questions to ask yourself regarding stewardship opportunities:
  - (1) What is the purpose of this situation?
  - (2) What are the resources available to me?
  - (3) How can God get glory from this?
  - (4) Who and what is God using in this?

## Let's talk about and identify the stewardship opportunities in the following:

- ❖ Seed to the sower – 2 Cor. 9:10

## Part 2: Stewardship Opportunity – My Bag

- ❖ Money in and of itself is not bad –
  - The love of money is the problem – 1 Tim. 6:10; Heb. 13:5
  - God blesses you with resources because of your obedience – Deut. 15:6; Deut. 28:11-12
- ❖ What do you want more – God or the bag? Mat. 6:33; Deut. 8:18; 1 Chron. 4:9-10
- ❖ You can be a poor steward with or without money – Luke 12:13-21
- ❖ You must grow to the place in which avoidance is no longer an option
  - You will not be a good steward over your “bag” by avoiding dealing with the decisions that keep you from being a good steward
    - Out of wack priorities – Mat. 6:33
    - Spending
      - Addictions – James 4:7; 1 Cor. 6:12, Luke 12:15
      - Using stuff to mask other issues
        - ◆ Issues like pride and envy will keep you broke – Pro. 14:30; Tit. 3:3; Exo. 20:17
        - ◆ Are you at peace and content in God? Phil. 4:6, 4:11
    - Lack of knowledge
      - Budget – Hab. 2:2; 1 Tim. 3:5; Luke 14:28; Pro. 6:6-8
    - Lack of discipline – Rom. 12:11
    - Excessive borrowing - Rom. 13:8; Pro. 22:7
    - Avoiding responsibilities and bills – 1 Tim. 5:8
- ❖ Are you avoiding the God-given opportunities as a steward?
  - Are you honoring God with the opportunities He is giving you to? Mal. 3:10; Luke 16:10; Phil. 4:11-17
  - Are you willing to work it? Pro. 13:11
- ❖ Steward Should Follow God’s Financial Plan (Thielen, Martin. *God Lessons from the Great Recession: Preaching in the Context of a Financial Downturn*)
  - Earn Ethically (Hab 2:6-9; Pro 11:1)
  - Resist Greed (Ecc 5:10; 1 Tim 6:9-10)
  - Spend modestly (1Tim 6:6-8; Heb 13:5)
  - Save Diligently (Pro 21:20; Gen 41:35-36)
  - Give Generously (Pro 3:9; Pro 11:24-25; Act 20:35; 1 Tim 6:18)

## Part 3: Stewardship Opportunity – My Body

- (1) Is it possible to have stewardship over our bodies?
- (2) Should we budget our time?
- (3) Are my commitments driven by God or me?

### Whose Body? God's or Yours?

- ❖ 1 Cor. 6:19-20
- ❖ How does our body become God's?
  - Being open to examination by God – Psa. 139:23-24
  - Submission to God and Resistance to the devil – Rom. 6:13-17; James. 4:7
  - Presenting it to Him sacrificially – Rom. 12:1-2

### What do mean being a steward of my body?

- ❖ Your tongue – James 3:2-6; Mat. 12:36
- ❖ Your Heart
  - It's Importance – Prov. 4:23
  - He Knows – Jer. 17:9-10; Heb. 4:12
  - What does He want? Psa. 51:17; 2 Chr. 16:9
- ❖ Your Mind
  - Holiness – 1 Pet. 1:13-16
  - Our model for mind stewardship – Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Cor. 2:12-16
  - The benefits of mind stewardship – Isa. 26:3
  - Is it possible – Phil. 4:6-7; Prov. 4:20-22
- ❖ Physical Stewardship – 1 Tim. 4:8; Neh. 6:9
  - Questions on physical stewardship
    - Should we do whatever with our physical bodies since we are eternal beings?
    - Are we accomplishing what God has purposed us to do in the earth?
      - Is our physical man hindering the work?
  - What am I putting in my body? 2 Cor. 7:1
    - If I'm going to take care of my spirit, I must also take care of my body – 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Cor. 6:20; Mat. 4:4
  - What about moderation and self-control? 1 Cor. 9:25-27; Gal. 5:23; Pro. 25:16
  - The Bible does not speak against exercise – 1 Tim. 4:8
- ❖ Sexual Expression
  - Is sexual sin important to God? 1 Cor. 6:9-10, 13-18; 1 Cor. 6:15-18
  - Is lust really all that bad? Mat. 5:28

## Part 4: Stewardship Opportunity – My Witness

### Stewarding the Light Inside of Me – Mat. 5:14-16

- ❖ As a believer, you must see yourself as what God calls you – light (phos: emitted light)
  - The light shines out of darkness – 2 Cor. 4:6
  - Jesus shines in and through us – John 1:4; John 8:12; Isa. 49:6
- ❖ We are not only light but placed light – Mat. 5:14b
  - Unable to be hidden
  - This is why we must guard our witness, because others are watching – Eph. 4:29
- ❖ Your works do matter – Mat. 5:16
  - Works: ergon: 1) business, employment, that which any one is occupied; 1a) that which one undertakes to do, enterprise, undertaking; j 2) any product whatever, any thing accomplished by hand, art, industry, or mind (Thayer's Greek Definitions)
  - They lead others to glorify God – Mat. 5:16

### The enemy seeks to destroy your witness of what God has said and done – Acts 4:1-22

- ❖ Signs the enemy is trying to silence your voice and sharing of the Gospel
  - They become grieved as you teach and share truth – Acts 4:1-2; Gal. 4:16
  - Your witness is effective at the same time you are presented with bondage – Acts 4:3-4
  - Your witness is misunderstood because those trying to understand are ignorant of your Source – vs. 7
    - Exo. 2:14; Mat. 21:23; Acts 7:27
  - You are set in the midst – overwhelming opposition – Psa. 22:16

### How Do I Steward My Witness?

- ❖ Know where your power comes from – Mat. 28:18
  - Prevents you from seeking attention and validation from man
- ❖ Set the example instead of following that of the world – 1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:1
- ❖ Understand that separation is far better than devastation – 2 Tim. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:9
- ❖ Keep your heart – Pro. 4:23; Phil. 4:6-7
- ❖ Tell the truth – Pro. 14:5; Pro. 6:16-19; Col. 3:9-10; Phil. 4:8
  - Stay firm in faith by the Word of God – Eph. 6:14; 1 John 5:13; Isa. 53:1-10; John 14:6
- ❖ Know what you go through is a part of your witness – Acts 20:22-24
- ❖ Stay woke – 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Pet. 5:8
- ❖ Remain consistent and focused – 2 Pet. 3:14-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Tim. 4:1-16
  - Don't get tangled up – 2 Tim. 2:3-4

### Share Your Witness

Acts 26