

STEWARDSHIP

MANAGING OF OUR
TIME, TALENT & TREASURE

What is Stewardship??

- The careful and responsible management or supervision of something entrusted to one's care (stewardship of our natural resources)
- To me this implies that we have decisions to make and are responsible for that which we are stewards over. Just like a manager of business is responsible for his/her department and employees, so we are with all that God has entrusted to us.

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

One thing that helps me to keep things in perspective is the fact that I came into the world with nothing and will leave with nothing. I try to remember to look at all my possessions as merely being "on loan." This has helped me begin to see myself more as a "steward" rather than an "owner".

Am I a Good Steward?

- This is a good question to ask yourself. The Bible says that someone who is faithful with a little thing will be faithful with much. (Luke 16:9-11).
- Stewards are mentioned in the Bible quite a bit. The basic message that I get from the Bible about being a good steward is that God has entrusted me with things down here on earth and it is my responsibility to do the best I can with them.



So What Are We Actually Stewards Over?

It applies to everything we have been given. Our time, our money, skills (our God given gifts and abilities), our influence...it all comes from God. There are lots of stewardship verses in the Bible that show us how we should act. My favorite is the **Parable of the Talents** (***Matthew 25:14-30***) since it gives such a great illustration of what a good steward does. Put simply, the good stewards were the ones who **took “risks” and action** in order to multiply what they had been given. The bad steward was the one who out of fear decided not to take a risk and was called lazy as well.

What is a Talent?

- When the term "Talent" is used in this parable it means a unit of value (money).
- Today we use the term "Talent" to mean a skill or ability.

We should give back to God our Time, Talent, and Treasure.

How Should "Stewardship Living" Affect Our Lives?

- Finances tends to be the key area that people refer to when speaking of stewardship. I think the main reason for this is that often money is one of the most difficult things for people to give away.
- I used to be like this too. I was reluctant to give away "my money." I didn't even think about it as belonging to God.
- The same was true about my time. It never occurred to me that God was interested in using me for anything.

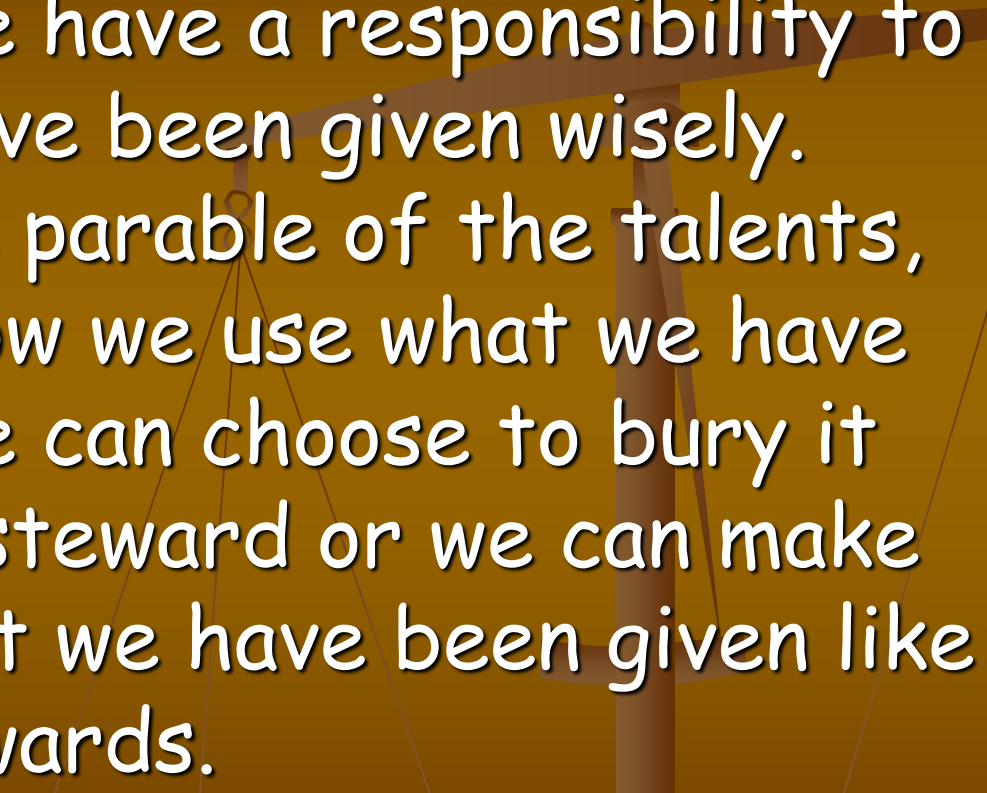
Stewards Can Only Serve One Master

"No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

(Matthew 6:24)

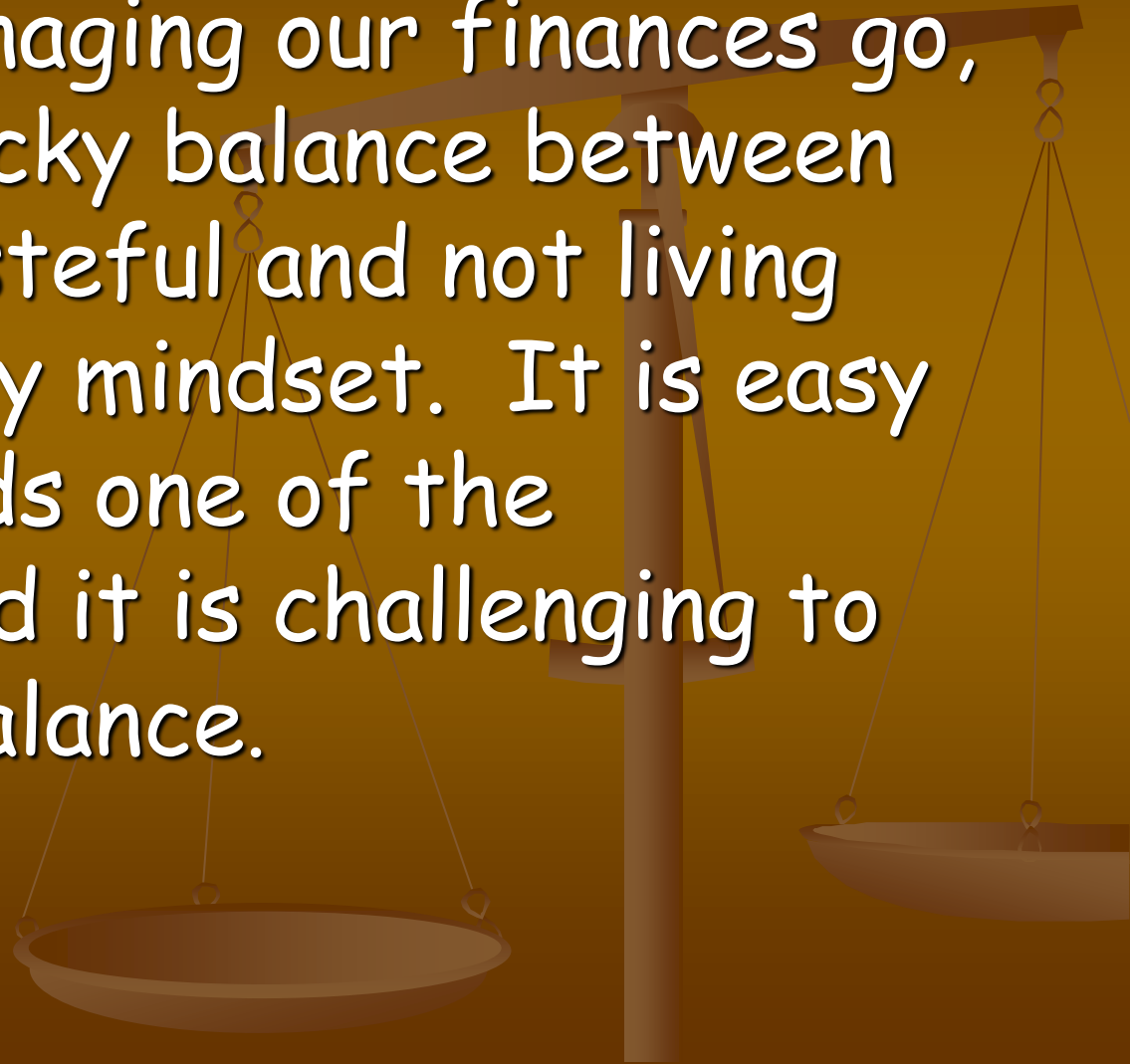
How Are You Going To Use It?

As stewards we have a responsibility to use what we have been given wisely. Just like in the parable of the talents, it is up to us how we use what we have been given. We can choose to bury it like the "lazy" steward or we can make more from what we have been given like the "good" stewards.



KEEPING THINGS IN BALANCE

As far as managing our finances go, there is a tricky balance between not being wasteful and not living with a poverty mindset. It is easy to fall towards one of the extremes, and it is challenging to walk in the balance.



GOD IS GREAT!!!

As we prove ourselves faithful in small things we will be given more and bigger things to be stewards over.

His master replied, " Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21-22)