



Week 2, Day 5:

Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT)

The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'

Matthew 25:21 (NLT)

Throughout this week we have examined stewardship and what it means along with how we can better apply it in our lives. As we end this week we want you to walk away with the understanding that stewardship is our ultimate calling as followers of Jesus.

It's the first assignment God gave the human race in Genesis 1:28. That's when God told Adam and Eve to, "have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth," (NKJV).

Stewardship is managing God's blessings God's ways for God's glory. As we examined in Day 1 through Psalm 24:1, God owns it all: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," (KJV).

And if He's the owner, that means we're not. Instead, we're His stewards—His managers. God commands us to be stewards over everything He blesses us with. Everything. That means our time, talents, treasure, relationships, jobs and, yes, stuff. It's all God's, and He trusts us with it.

Did you catch that? We get to manage all of the Creator's stuff! How awesome is that? It's both an honor and a serious responsibility! When we get that in our spirit, well, it changes things. It changes our perspective on our family budgets, our daily decisions,

even our purpose in life. When we understand true, biblical stewardship, the trajectories of our lives change with every decision we make.

We begin to build a legacy of stewardship in our families. We treat our spouses and kids differently. We approach our work with a new sense of purpose. We become grateful for everything we have. We live within our means. We have more money to give to God's mission. And we have hope for the future.

When we get to heaven and have to give an account of how we managed God's resources (1 Corinthians 4:2), I hope God will reply to all of us, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

PRAYER:

God, you alone are the source of every good gift. I thank you for all your gifts to me, and I thank you for your generosity. Everything I have, and all that I am, comes from you. Help me to be grateful and responsible in my stewardship of my time, talents and treasures. I commit myself to being a good steward. Help me to be grateful, accountable, generous, and willing to give back with increase. Help me to make stewardship a way of life.