

*Stewardship
Manager of the House
Mike Desroches 2009*

***“Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”
(1 Cor 4:2)***

The actual word for stewardship in the bible is
“Manager of the house”.
Not owner—but manager.

A steward is a manager--one who is responsible to take care of those things that belong to someone else. A steward is a person who manages someone else’s property on behalf of the owner.

Has anyone ever asked you to take care of their pet while they went out of town? Watch their home or baby-sit their children while they were away? Well, you were asked because they felt that you would found “faithful” to manage their property while they were away.

In like manner, God is the “owner” of all things. And we are His property! The servant of Christ should be at the absolute command of no other master besides God.

And 100% stewardship can only be comprehended when 100% ownership is understood.

**Paul writes,
“Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.”
(1 Cor 7:20-24)**

Instead---we must come to grips with this one fact:
Everything I have that belongs to me is on loan from God.
Money, possessions, gifts, plans, careers, families and our futures.
So why is stewardship so important?
Because anything we tend to own—we tend to exploit.

Also, we can never put God in our debt or make the claim that God owes us something. We must regard ourselves as God's servants, just as Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve".

So where did it go all wrong?
In creating our world, God appointed Adam and Eve as the first stewards of creation.

He gave them a large inheritance and set them as the first stewards of His creation. God gave Adam creation to rule over. Everything was “God centered”. And it was Good.

God chose what was good and what was evil. He chose the sun’s warmth for day, and the cool of darkness for night. He chose fellowship over self-dependence. Intimacy over isolation. He chose completeness in God rather than self-centeredness.

Adam and Eve were not dependent of the creation for their happiness, they were in covenant with the God of creation.

God separated man from anything that would possibly cause him to be isolated from Him. He asked Adam to manage His property. God wanted Adam and Eve to be faithful stewards out of Love for rather than out of duty. And in order to determine if it was love that compelled them to be a good steward rather than duty, he gave them the freedom to choose His creation over Him.

So—God placed the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil was a way for man to affirm their obedience of stewardship. The tree was a way for man to affirm His love for God.

God gave Adam and Eve an opportunity for a loving response to say “I trust you”.

In other words, how can you choose good from evil unless you know both good and evil?

So, God who is love and freedom gave man a nature to choose obedience rather than duty.

Adam and eve could never be indebted to God for managing His property.

Adam could never say to God: Look at all I have done---I have been a good steward over all you have given me—where is my reward. Rather God wanted love to compel Adam to be a good steward not duty. Pleasing God was to be Adam’s reward. And Adam could never have that claim on God.

If it was not love that compelled him to be a good steward then it was duty.

True love is sacrificial, generous, and boundless. God honors the faithful servant who loves generously. He is ever ready to work through us and in us for his glory. We must remember, however, that God can never be indebted to us either.

We have no claim on him. His love compels us to give him our best! ***And when we have done our best, we have simply done our duty.*** We can never outdo God.

The Key to stewardship is found in Matthew 25:14-30. Each steward was given different amounts of money to manage. Each person had a different starting point. Every gift we have is a resource. We must use it or we will be held accountable. Some have one, some two and some five talents. The quantity to begin does not matter. Their faithfulness was their success.

Does the love of God compel you to give your best?

Begin measuring your love for God according to your faithfulness in managing the resources He has given you or one day you just may say;

My power and the might of [mine] hand hath gotten me this wealth.

(Deut 8:17)

Love you-Pastor Mike