

OWNED

EVIDENCE

AM I AN OWNER? NO, I AM A STEWARD.

Stewardship is a practice and a perspective that acknowledges that God is Lord and Owner of everything and we are not God. It is a privilege and a responsibility to:

Manage the possessions of the Owner
according to the directions of the Owner
for the purposes of the Owner

A STORY ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY

He proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. ¹²He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ ¹⁴But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ ¹⁵When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business.” Luke 19:11-15

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. . . ¹⁶I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last . . .” John 15:8, 16a

Fruit is the evidence of stewardship and authentic relationship with God

“The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ ¹⁷And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’

¹⁸And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’

¹⁹And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ ²⁰Then another came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; ²¹for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’ ²²He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? ²³Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’ ²⁴And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ ²⁵And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’ ²⁶‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.’”

Luke 19:16-26

**Stewardship now matters for eternity
Stewardship begins with a proper view of God**

His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort . . . ⁸For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, ¹¹and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:3, 5a, 8, 10-11

HOW’S BUSINESS?

“Engage in business until I come.”

Am I controlling or responsible?

Am I connected or disconnected?

What’s the evidence?

NEXT STEPS

Dave Ramsey *Financial Peace University* small group

- Starting March 31

The Good and Beautiful God small group

Serve

Further reading:

Every Good Endeavor by Timothy Keller

The Good and Beautiful God by James Bryan Smith