



Week 1: Stewardship in Principle & Practice

Introduction:

In our first teaching from the series, "Entrusted: Living for God's Glory," we explore the biblical principle of stewardship through Matthew 25:14-30. Here Jesus teaches the general principle of stewardship. The Biblical concept of stewardship means that everything we have—our time, talents, finances, and opportunities—ultimately belongs to God. As His stewards, we are called to faithfully manage what He entrusts to us, using it not for selfish gain but for His glory and the good of others. This teaching challenges us to move from passive ownership to active faithfulness, recognizing that true stewardship requires investment, obedience, and trust in God. In the end, being a steward of God's resources is a responsibility God has given us, but it is also a pathway to deeper joy and eternal reward in His kingdom.

Purpose of This Homework:

This 5-day devotional study will help you assess your current mindset about stewardship, challenge unbiblical beliefs or attitudes, and develop intentional habits that align with God's design for faithful stewardship.

Each day will include:

- **A Scripture Reading** (to shape your understanding of stewardship)
- **Assessment Questions** (to evaluate your attitudes, thoughts, and beliefs)
- **A Practical Action Step** (to help you embody faithful stewardship)

Day 1: Recognizing God's Ownership

Psalm 24:1 *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein...”*

Read: Deuteronomy 8

Assess Your Beliefs & Attitudes:

In Deuteronomy 8 Moses reminds the Israelites that everything they have has been gifted to them by the Lord. The place in which they will live, the clothing they possess, the food they eat, the wealth they accumulate are all directly given from God.

As you read these portions of scripture, do you find yourself agreeing with the truth or resisting it? Why?

How do you typically think about your possessions, money, time, and abilities—do you see them as *yours* or as *God’s*?

How does seeing God as the source of all you have shape your view of His goodness?

Assess Your Actions:

How often do you pray and seek God’s direction before making major financial, career, or time-related decisions?

How have you recently used what God has entrusted to you, whether time, skills, relationships, or resources, to bring Him glory?

Day 2: Using God's Resources for His Glory

1 Corinthians 10:31 "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

Colossians 3:23-24 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Assess Your Beliefs & Attitudes:

After reading these scriptures, do you see your daily work (whether paid or unpaid) as something that can glorify God? Why or why not?

How do you determine what is a "worthy" use of your time, talents, or money? Do you measure it by personal benefit, societal standards, or God's glory?

Do you view generosity of time, talent, and treasure as an obligation, a burden, or a joy?

Assess Your Actions:

In what areas of life (finances, relationships, work, etc.) do you most naturally prioritize God's glory?

In what areas do you struggle to surrender your resources for God's purposes?

Action Step:

The 36-Hour Stewardship Awareness Challenge:

An exercise to heighten awareness of how you are using your daily time, energy, and resources. Dedicate the next 36 hours to focused conversation with God about how best to use everyday opportunities for God's glory. The morning of Day 2 will provide the start of this exercise and it will end on Day 3 in the evening.

Instructions:

For the next 36 hours, pause before making any decision involving time, money, or talents. Try and give careful attention to every opportunity God has placed in your path to be used for His glory.

Before each action, ask yourself one question:

"Is this an act of stewardship for God's glory, or am I primarily doing this for myself without any awareness of God?"

Day 3: Faithful Stewardship Requires Action

James 2:14-17 *“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”*

Assess Your Beliefs & Attitudes:

As you begin day 3, continue your practice of asking, “Is this an act of stewardship for God’s glory, or am I primarily doing this for myself without any awareness of God?” throughout the day. Take notice of the internal dialogue or underlying motivations of your heart.

- Do you tend to be passive or active in using your talents, time, and financial resources for God’s purposes? Why?
- Are there any gifts, skills, or opportunities you have that you hesitate to use for God? If so, what holds you back—fear, doubt, busyness, or something else?
- How do you define *faithfulness* when it comes to stewardship? Do you equate it with *not wasting* resources, or with actively investing them for the Kingdom?

Assess Your Actions:

It is one thing to believe that we are called by God to be stewards of the gifts that he has given us, but according to James, our attitude and actions must agree. What action is required for today in order for your actions to align with your stated Biblical values about stewardship?

- If someone were to evaluate your life, what evidence would they find that you are actively investing your resources for God?
- Do you see areas where you’ve buried or neglected a talent, financial resource, or time opportunity?

Action Step: Prayer of Reflection:

At the end of the day, take 10-15 minutes to pray. Walk through these 5 steps in conversation with God. This prayer practice is meant to walk you through the steps of talking reflectively with God and creating space to listen to the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life.

1. Remind Yourself to Be Aware of God’s Presence

Example: *“Father, You are the giver of all good things. Everything I have comes from You. As I reflect on this day, open my eyes to see Your presence and my role as a steward of Your gifts. Holy Spirit, guide me in honesty and clarity. Amen.”*

Pause for a moment of silence. Rest in God's presence and invite Him to lead your thoughtful reflection.

2. Review the Day with Gratitude

Reflect on your day with thanksgiving. Stewardship starts with recognizing that all we have is from God as a gift.

- *What blessings have I received today (time, opportunities, provision, relationships, or insights)?*
- *How has God provided for my needs—spiritually, physically, or emotionally?*
- *In what ways did I experience joy, fulfillment, or gratitude in how I used my resources today?*

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

"Lord, thank You for entrusting me with so much. Every breath, every moment, every opportunity comes from You. I praise You for Your faithfulness and generosity."

3. Examine Your Stewardship

Now, reflect on how you managed what God entrusted to you today. Be honest before the Lord.

- *Where have I misused or neglected what God has given me?*
- *Have I prioritized my own desires over God's purposes today?*
- *Did fear, laziness, or distraction keep me from being a faithful steward?*

Pause and listen.

Allow the Holy Spirit to highlight areas where you have been faithful and where you may need to grow. Recognize that the Holy Spirit also reminds us of scripture so that we have a "plumb line" for truth and assessment. If scripture is brought to mind, make a conscious decision to embrace it as the true measurement. Conviction is a loving and gracious gift from God, receive it as such.

4. Seek Forgiveness and Renewal

If the Holy Spirit convicts you of wasted time, missed opportunities, selfishness, or negligence, bring these before God.

Prayer of Repentance:

Example: "Lord, I confess where I have not stewarded well what You've entrusted to me. Forgive me for any selfishness, waste, or neglect. Help me grow in faithfulness. I surrender every resource, my time, finances, talents, and relationships to You again. Transform my heart to reflect Yours."

Receive God's grace and forgiveness through Christ. Remember, He is not condemning you; He is shaping you into a faithful steward.

5. Look Ahead with God's Guidance

Ask God for wisdom to steward tomorrow well.

- How can I be more intentional in managing my time, talents, and resources?
- What small step can I take to be more generous, diligent, or purposeful in my stewardship?
- Where is God calling me to trust Him more fully with what I have?

Prayer for the Future:

Example: "Father, tomorrow is another opportunity to serve You. Give me wisdom to use my time well, generosity to share what I have, and faithfulness to honor You with my resources. Help me to live with open hands, ready to serve and invest in what truly matters. Let my life bring You glory. Amen."

Day 4: Accountability Before God

Romans 14:12 “Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” So then each of us will give an account of himself to God”

2 Corinthians 5:10 “ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

Assess Your Beliefs & Attitudes:

Do you live with a daily awareness that one day you will give an account to God for how you used your resources? Why or why not?

When you think about God evaluating your stewardship, does it bring peace or anxiety? What does that reveal about your perspective on God and stewardship?

How do you define *success* in life? Is your definition aligned with God’s standards for stewardship?

Assess Your Actions:

If Jesus sat with you today and reviewed how you’ve used your time, money, and abilities in the past year, what areas would He affirm? What areas would He challenge you to change?

Action Step:

Small, consistent changes, often called micro-disciplines, have the power to transform our lives over time. Just as a single drop of water, repeated over years, can carve through stone, small, daily acts of faithfulness shape our character and habits in profound ways. Whether it's setting aside five minutes for prayer, choosing generosity in small moments, or intentionally managing our time for God's glory, these seemingly minor choices create momentum for lasting spiritual growth. We often experience discouragement when we try to make huge swings in life but cannot sustain them. Faithful stewardship is not about grand gestures but about daily obedience, and over time, these micro-disciplines lead to a life fully surrendered to Christ, bearing fruit for His kingdom. "Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much" (Luke 16:10).

What is one practical micro-change you can make to nurture growth in some aspect of stewardship in your life?

What action can you take today to begin that change?

Day 5: The Reward of Faithful Stewardship

1 Cor 4:2 “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful...”

1 Cor 4:5 “Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.”

Assess Your Beliefs & Attitudes:

When you think about the rewards for faithfulness, do you focus more on earthly blessings or eternal joy?

How do you respond to the idea that faithful stewardship is about *relationship* with God, not just responsibility?

Does the promise of sharing in God’s joy motivate you to be more faithful in stewardship? Why or why not?

Assess Your Actions:

How are you currently storing up *eternal treasure* through generosity, service, and faithful management of resources?

What do you anticipate Jesus affirming as “faithful” when you stand before Him?

What would you like to be affirmed and rewarded but don’t expect it?
