

# Stewardship



## Part 1:

*Being Found Faithful in the Midst of  
Freedom and Responsibility*

# Why Update Our Series on Money?

1. Jesus knew that nothing would compete for our time, attention and allegiance more than money.

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

## Why Update Our Series on Money?

1. Jesus knew that nothing would compete for our time, attention and allegiance more than money.
2. We need to refresh the scriptures and teachings about money so that we remain on course.
3. We are not giving as we should, and that is the best indication that we have more work to do.
4. How we spend our money is the best indication of what we really care about in this world.

# Why Update Our Series on Money?

For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:24

4. How we spend our money is the best indication of what we really care about in this world.

## Our Last Series on Money

1. Intro + Five Sessions on Kingdom View of Money
2. Much more detail on budgeting, debt reduction, savings and investment.
3. Focus on:
  - Freeing up funds to invest for the kingdom
  - Learning to cut unnecessary expenses
  - Getting out of debt to be free to follow God
  - Avoiding debt payments that increase costs
  - Discipline of budgeting to identify other places to cut
  - Utilizing time value of money for to maximize savings and investment

What is our Relationship with the Master?

Stewardship.

We do not own what we hold in our hands.

We merely possess these things for the Master.

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*Faithful and Wise Use of*  
Freedom + Responsibility = Stewardship

What is our Relationship with the Master?

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Who then is the faithful and wise servant,  
whom the master has put in charge of the servants  
in his household to give them their food  
at the proper time?

Matthew 24:45



What is our Relationship with the Master?

# Stewardship.

*Faithful and Wise Use of*  
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Stewardship  $\neq$  Fundraising

# Other forms of Stewardship

Your Time

Your Education

Your Job / Career

Specific Skills and Talents

Unique Passions

An Abundance of Wealth and Opportunity

An Abundance of Relationships

Scripture and Time Spent Learning God's Word

The Gospel and the Work of the Kingdom

What is our Relationship with the Master?

# Stewardship.

*Faithful and Wise Use of  
Freedom + Responsibility = Stewardship*

*The Parable of the Talents*

*Matthew 25:14-30*

# Freedom and Responsibility



## Matthew 25:14-30

*“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey.*

*The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.*

*"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'*

## Freedom and Responsibility



*"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!' The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.'*

*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!'*

*"Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'*

## Freedom and Responsibility



*"His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'*

*"Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

# Freedom and Stewardship

## The Lessons of The Parable of the Talents

- // The Master is the one who provides the money to the stewards.*
- // The Master expects us to invest what He has given us, and to produce a return on that investment.*
- // The Master gives different amounts, each according to their ability, but we are expected to invest what we currently have.*
- // The Master gives us freedom of where and how to invest, along with responsibility for the choices we make. The Master comes to make account with us at the end of the age.*
- // The entire investment, what He gives to us, and what we make with it, belongs to the Master. Everything is to be used for the Master's purpose.*

# Balance

## *Our Attitudes Toward Money*

*Content  
with doing  
the bare  
minimum to  
get by.*





# Balance

*Content  
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In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers, to keep away from every brother who is idle and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to make ourselves a model for you to follow. For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."

We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

# Balance

## *Our Attitudes Toward Money*

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*Completely  
consumed by  
money,  
materialism  
and living for  
ourselves.*

# Balance

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had.

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need.

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet.

Acts 4:32-37

*Completely  
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**The Balance of  
Stewardship**

## Next Week

*What does it cost (financially) to follow Jesus?*

*What does Jesus require of a true disciple?*

*What could we accomplish if we took Jesus at His word?*

# Everything.



## WELCOME TO EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM

### INTERACTIVE



Participate, ask questions, talk back...

What if we listened to what everyone had to say — and discovered that God can speak through us all? After all, we all learn better when we talk things out, hear different points of view, and give room for the Spirit to speak through our deliberation.

[Read more](#)

### THOUGHTFUL



Test everything, hold on to what is good...

Many hours of research are dedicated to prepare each one of our series. We explore the scriptures, the breadth of Christian scholarship, contemporary authors, and consider a wide range of sources outside of our faith.

[Read more](#)

### FAITHFUL



Set apart Christ as Lord...

We all have questions. But we learn together in a way that tackles the deepest part of our doubts while making sure that our purpose is clear: to always know the reason for the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, and to be prepared to share that answer with everyone who asks us about that hope.

[Read more](#)

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF  
EXODUS INTERACTIVE FORUM.

WE WELCOME YOU TO SEND  
FEEDBACK, QUESTIONS OR  
COMMENTS, AND WE WOULD  
LOVE TO HEAR HOW EXODUS HAS  
IMPACTED YOU. EMAIL US AT:

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