Stewardship



Part 2:
Being Found Faithful in the Midst of
Freedom and Responsibility

LAST WEEK

- 1. Reasons to Update Our Series on Money
- 2. How Exodus is Doing with Giving
- 3. The Parable of the Talents
- 4. Tension Between Idleness and Hoarding Wealth

How Are We Doing With Giving?

2008 Giving: \$10,500.00

2009 Giving (to date): \$10,200.00

2009 Giving (estimated): \$11,500.00

We are each donating an average of: \$9.20 each week.

\$38.33 every month.

\$460.⁰⁰ every year.

The average annual salary in Exodus is: \$4,600.00 per year.

WHAT IS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MASTER?

Stewardship.

Faithful and Wise Use of
Freedom and Responsibility
= Stewardship

Goal:

To Produce A Return
For The Master With What
He Has Given

WHAT DO WE STEWARD FOR THE MASTER?

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 DO WE STEWARD FOR THE MASTER?

MONEY

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

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 <u>freedom</u> of where and how to invest, along with <u>responsibility</u> for the choices we make, so the Master comes to make account with us at the end of the age.

TONIGHT

What part of what we possess belongs to Jesus?

What does Jesus require of a true disciple?

How much are we expected to give to the Lord's purposes?

Everything.

EVERYTHING BELONGS TO THE LORD

- "The earth is the Lord's and EVERYTHING in it." Psalm 24:1a
- "For the earth is the Lord's and EVERYTHING in it." 1 Corinthians 10:26
- "Who has a claim against me that I must pay? EVERYTHING under heaven belongs to me." Job 41:11
- "In putting EVERYTHING under Him [Jesus], God left nothing that is not subject to Him." Hebrews 2:8b

GIVING EVERYTHING

- "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold EVERYTHING he had and bought it." Matthew 13:45-47
- "Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in EVERYTHING all she had to live on.'" Mark 12:43-44
- "Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch with me.' So they pulled their boats up on the shore, left EVERYTHING and followed him." Luke 5:10-12
- "After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. 'Follow me,' Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left EVERYTHING and followed him." Luke 5:27-28

GIVING EVERYTHING

- "When Jesus heard this, He said to him, 'You still lack one thing. Sell EVERYTHING you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come follow me." Luke 18:21-23
- "Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in EVERYTHING all she had to live on.'" Mark 12:43-44
- "The Father loves the Son and has placed EVERYTHING in his hands."

 John 3:35
- "All the believers were together and had EVERYTHING in common."
- -Acts 2:44
- "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."
- -Acts 4:32

GIVING EVERYTHING

"Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. So I will very gladly spend for you EVERYTHING I have and expend myself as well." – 2 Corinthians 12:14a, 15a

COST OF DISCIPLESHIP: GIVING UP EVERYTHING



"Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.'"

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace."

-- Luke 14:25-33

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COST OF DISCIPLESHIP: GIVING UP EVERYTHING



Peter [said] to him,

'We have left EVERYTHING to follow you!

What then will there be for us?'

"Jesus said to them, 'I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." - Matthew 19:27-29

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." - 1 Timothy 6:10

What keeps us from giving Everything?

- Materialism
- Debt
- Living for Ourselves
- Greed
- Envy
- Idolatry



What keeps us from giving Everything?

- → Materialism
- Living for Ourselves

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Luke 12:15

What keeps us from giving Everything?

- → Materialism
- Living for Ourselves

"Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income."

Ecclesiastes 5:10

What keeps us from giving Everything?

- → Materialism
- Living for Ourselves

"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful."

Matthew 13:22

What keeps us from giving Everything?

- Materialism
- → Living for Ourselves

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:19-21

What keeps us from giving Everything?

- Materialism
- → Living for Ourselves

"Now He was also saying to the disciples,

There was a rich man who had a manager,

and this manager was reported to him as squandering his possessions.

And he called him and said to him, 'What is this I hear about you?

Give an account of your management, for you can no longer be manager."

Luke 16:1-2

What keeps us from giving Everything?

- Materialism
- → Living for Ourselves

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12:16-21

FINISHING WELL

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. . . . '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!'



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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.

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