

ALL THAT GLITTERS ISN'T GOLD

"Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?'"

Mark 8:34-36 (NIV)

"God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and all we are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the Gospel, and a binding stewardship with their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents and material possessions, and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally, for the advancement of the Redeemers cause on earth."

❖ What is Stewardship?

"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV)

1. Stewardship is related to MANAGEMENT.

"He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?"

1 Timothy 3:4-5 (NIV)

2. Stewardship is related to SERVICE.

"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 (NIV)

3. Stewardship is related to a SACRED TRUST.

"God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his message in all its fullness to you Gentiles."

Colossians 1:25 (NLT)

❖ What does it mean for us to be a Good Steward?

"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 (NIV)

1. Being a good steward with our TIME.

"Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Spend your time and energy in training yourself for spiritual fitness."

1 Timothy 4:7 (NLT)

2. Being a good steward with our TALENTS.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

3. Being a good steward with our TREASURES.

"Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse--the whole nation of you--because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Malachi 3:8-10 (NIV)

❖ Steps Toward Becoming a Faithful Steward

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."

Romans 12:1 (NKJV)

1. My Faithful Stewardship begins with FAITH.

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

2. My Faithful Stewardship grows through TRUST.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and He will direct your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

3. My Faithful Stewardship continues through OBEDIENCE.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

"So why do you call me 'Lord,' when you won't obey me?"

Luke 6:46 (NLT)

❖ Closing Challenge: If everything you do is for you, then it's time for a new MASTER.

"If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a great reward."

Luke 12:43 (NLT)