

Discipleship Lesson 14

Stewardship

Key Memory Verse:

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19



Discipleship

Lesson 14

Stewardship

As you study this lesson you will understand why the following statements are not true.

1. If we get enough material wealth, we will be satisfied.
2. It is okay to love God and your money.
3. A rich person must have violated God's laws to obtain his wealth.

What Should My Attitude Be toward the Resources God Has Given Me?

One of the greatest temptations that we face as Christians in America is the tremendous materialism in our culture. We are geared to think that success is measured by the abundance of our material wealth, when in reality a man's success is measured by fulfilling God's plan for his life.

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to learn one of the most important principles in the Bible: stewardship. Our relationship to God is built upon trust. God wants us to learn to trust Him and walk by faith.

I. Stewardship—Can God Trust You?

- A. Webster's Dictionary defines a steward as "A person morally responsible for the careful use of money, time, talents, or other resources; especially with respect to the principles or needs of a community or group."

Synonyms of the word *steward* are: manager, curator, custodian, trustee, administrator, and caretaker.

- B. What is the key character quality that God looks for in a steward? See 1 Corinthians 4:2.

So regardless of our age, talent, intelligence, looks, or past, we can all be faithful to the Lord beginning today.

C. What must a steward understand?

1. According to Psalm 24:1, of what is God the owner?

This means that everything that I own is a gift from God (James 1:17). So I am accountable to God for how I use His gifts. That includes my health, my job, my money, my time, and my family.

2. Until you settle this issue in your heart, you will always have a problem in the area of **your rights versus your responsibilities**.

What is the difference in being the owner of an ice cream store versus being the manager of one?

D. How do you become a good steward? See Luke 16:10–13.

1. You cannot have two equal passions in your life, especially when it comes to money.
2. As a steward, I must recognize that all that I own is a gift from God, who gave me all of my abilities to earn a living. What attitude should this give me? Refer to 1Corinthians 4:6–7.

E. Read Luke 12:15–21 and answer the following questions.

1. Verse 15: I must guard against what?
2. Verses 16–21: Why did God call this man a fool?
3. When your only objective in life is to earn as much money as possible, God says that you are a _____.

F. After completing this section, how would you judge your stewardship over ... (1 is poor and 10 is very good)

Present Possessions? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Money? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Time? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Your Health? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Abilities? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Notes and Questions:

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II. What Does the Bible Say Regarding Money?

A. Some facts on money in the Bible:

1. There are over two thousand references to money and possessions in the Bible.
2. More is said about money than prayer. In fact, there are just five hundred references to prayer and faith combined.
3. More is said about money than heaven and hell combined.
4. Almost two-thirds of all of the parables of Christ are about money.

B. What does Matthew 6:19–21 tell us regarding what we treasure? What are some ways that we can practice this commandment?

C. Describe what 1 Timothy 6:10 has to say about money.

1. How do you know if you love money?
2. Can you name an example from the Bible of someone who loved money?

III. Wrong Attitudes toward Possessions Can Interfere with Our Responsibilities as Stewards

The following is a list of things that interfere with our stewardship:

- A. When you trust in _____ rather than trusting in God (Mark 10:17–27).
- B. When you set your affections on _____ things, rather than _____ things (Colossians 3:1–4).
- C. When you think your spirituality, another man's spirituality, or God's blessings can be measured by the _____ of material _____ (Luke 12:15).

- D. When God has worked in our lives, provided blessings for us, and provided us victories, there is a danger in forgetting that it is God who supplies our needs. **What did God warn Israel of before they entered the Promised Land?** Refer to Deuteronomy 8:10–18.

Why is it easy to do this?

IV. What Proper Attitudes Should I Develop toward Physical Possessions?

- A. First and foremost, be content with what you have. Understand that to be content is not to grudgingly resign yourself to accept your state, but to rest satisfied in God's provision, realizing that whatever you have been given is a blessing.
1. We are to be content with our possessions (Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 16:11). What do you think is the key to contentment?
 2. Remember, contentment does not mean that you give up or become lazy.
- B. Realize that there are many things that are far more important than money. **Name the things money cannot buy.**
1. Proverbs 16:16 _____
 2. Psalm 37:16 Being a _____ man.
 3. Proverbs 28:6 _____
 4. Ecclesiastes 5:12 _____
 5. Psalm 119:72, 127 _____
 6. Luke 8:43 _____
 7. Ecclesiastes 4:6; Proverbs 17:1 _____

Notes and Questions

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- C. Why should we not be envious of the wealth of others? See Psalm 49:16–17.
- D. What does God tell us about “get rich quick schemes”? See Proverbs 20:21, 28:20, 22.

V. Money and Spirituality Are Not Necessarily Enemies

A. We do not have to be poor to please God. This is very important to understand. We have already shown how spirituality is not measured by either the abundance or lack of material goods. Nowhere in the Bible does God specifically condemn anyone simply for having money. Instead, He deals with their attitude toward what they have.

1. What did money give this man in Matthew 19:16–22?

A false sense of _____.

B. Many godly Bible characters, like Abraham and David, were wealthy.

1. Solomon was the wealthiest man in history. What was his conclusion of this matter? See Ecclesiastes 12:13–14.
2. Job was the wealthiest man of his day (Job 1:3), but what did he say about his wealth when it was gone? See Job 1:20–22.
3. How was Christ provided for during His ministry? See Luke 8:1–3.
4. God wants to trust us in both adversity and prosperity, but in which set of circumstances is it harder to trust God?

Why is that true? See 1 Corinthians 10:12; Proverbs 18:10–11.

VI. What Will God Provide for Me?

- A. God promises to provide your needs if you are a good steward (Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:25–34).
- B. If you sacrifice for the Lord, what does God promise to do for you? See Matthew 19:27–30.

VII. Practical Application

- A. What is the key to being a good steward of all of God's blessings in your life?
- B. Examine your attitude toward money and possessions in light of this lesson. What are some of those attitudes that may need to change?
- C. List the three things in your life for which you are most thankful.
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
- D. Name two important truths or principles that stood out to you from this lesson.
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____

Notes and Questions:



