

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

THEME: STEWARDSHIP

TEXT: The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. 15 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. 16 The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. 17 So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. 18 But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 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.' 21 "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!' 22 "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' 23 "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!' 24 "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. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "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? 27 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. 28 "'Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 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. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' NIV

DEFINITION:

1. STEWARDSHIP - The management of another person's property, finances, or household affairs. As far as Christians are concerned, stewardship involves the responsibility of managing God's work through the church. God has appointed all Christians to be His stewards on earth. Stewardship is not an option, as Paul points out about his own call. Being a steward is a necessary part of believing the gospel, even if it involves sacrificing personal rewards (1 Cor 9:17).

2. STEWARD - ⁱⁱ(Heb. sar, "head" person; Grk. epitropos, "manager"; oikonomos, "overseer"). A manager or superintendent of another's household.
 - a. Eliezer over the house of Abraham (Gen 15:2).
 - b. Joseph as a steward in Potiphars' house(Gen. 43:19; 44:1,4)
 - c. Herod's steward (Luke 8:3).
 - d. Christian ministers as the stewards of God over His church (1 Cor 4:1-2).
 - e. Believers are also said to be stewards of God, of God's gifts and graces (1 Peter 4:10).

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF STEWARDSHIP (Matt 25:14-30)

1. We are servants entrusted with a responsibility and property. v 14
2. We are given tasks according to the Master's desire and decision v 15-18
3. We are responsible for what we have received and given v 15-18
4. There is a time of accountability and judgment of our actions done on what we have received, v 19-30
 - a. *Admiration and promotion v 20-23, or;*
 - b. *Disdain and condemnation v 24-30*

WHAT TO REMEMBER:

- As the parable of the talents shows, Christians will be held accountable for the way in which they manage God's affairs as stewards. It involves the following listed below:
 1. Preaching of the gospel (Col 1:24-28)
 2. Supporting the church financially (Acts 4:32-37)
 3. Ministering to the sick and needy (Matt 25:31-46).

ⁱ (from Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers)

ⁱⁱ (from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright (c) 1988.)