



Biblical Foundations

Stewarding God's Resources

[The kingdom of heaven] will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag 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 five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five 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!" The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold; 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 one bag of gold 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 gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

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."

"So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

— **Matthew 25:14–30 (NIV)**



This familiar Parable of the Talents superbly explains the concept of stewardship. While the primary application is readying ourselves for Christ's coming, there are stewardship lessons here which can be applied, as well. This includes the stewardship of our financial resources. Here are three lessons on stewardship from this parable.

We have all received.

Every one of us has received generously from God.

The website, *Giving What We Can*, posts an informative article entitled, "How Rich Am I?" (To read the article, [CLICK HERE](#).) This article states that a couple making \$50,000 a year is among the richest 4.9% of the world's population. This income is more than ten times the global median income. This couple's wealth must seem exorbitant to most of the world.

Have you ever wondered, "Why has God given me so much?" That's a great question to ask, and an important matter to ponder. Some of us have been entrusted with five talents; some two; and some, one. No matter how much or how little we have, it's a lot. Our God is a generous God, and He has entrusted much to our hands.

The important issue to remember is this. It's all His. It all came from Him (Jas. 1:17), and it all belongs to Him (1 Chron. 29:16). The question we should ask ourselves is this: "How does God want me to use the resources He has entrusted to me?"

We are all responsible.

As the parable illustrates, each servant was held accountable for the way in which he managed the master's money. The objective was to handle the funds in such a way as to seek the benefit of the owner. That involved an ongoing acknowledgment and keen awareness of the fact that it was the Master's money.

Further, it involved an understanding of the Master's agenda and a plan for aligning those funds with that agenda. Each servant had a certain amount of freedom and flexibility with the Master's money. But the servants' actions were governed by the guiding principle that all of it be used, managed, invested, and leveraged in such a way as to make the Master happy.

Just as the servants in this parable, we are responsible for managing all that God has given us for His benefit. How crucial it is to continuously acknowledge God's ownership of everything; to gain an understanding of God's values and wishes; and to spend, use, and invest His resources in ways that align with His agenda.

We will all be rewarded.

Eventually, the Master returned to take an accounting. He evaluated the way in which each



servant managed his money and the degree to which it was used for his benefit.

Those servants who managed their resources well were rewarded by the Master. Their rewards included lavish praise, additional responsibility/opportunity, and joyful fellowship with the Master.

Conversely, the servant who mismanaged the master's money received no reward. He was reprimanded, relieved of further participation, and cut off from fellowship with the Master.

It is a great honor to be given the role of stewards. Let us serve well in this role. Let us acknowledge God's ownership of all. Let us utilize and manage His resources responsibly. And as we seek to do so, I pray that God in His grace will reward you generously.