

Big Time Managers Can Be Big TIme Givers

Luke 16:10-13

- **In the Bible, stewardship refers to the responsible management and care of what God has entrusted to individuals, including natural resources, possessions, property, and spiritual gifts.**
- Jesus - *"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven? And if you are not faithful with other people's things, why should you be trusted with things of your own? "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."* (Luke 16:10-13)
- **Everyone wants the "cha-ching" life — financial freedom, peace, joy — but it doesn't start with having *more*, it starts with managing *well*.**
- Jesus - *"If you can't be trusted with little, you won't be trusted with much."* (Luke 16:10)
- ***What does it require in order to be a faithful manager with what God has entrusted to us?***

Being a Faithful Manager Requires Understanding That:

WE DON'T OWN IT, WE <u>MANAGE</u> IT

- **"***The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him."* (Psalm 24:1)
- **Everything we have is God's — we're the manager, not the owner.**
- *"But who am I, and who are my people, that we could give anything to You (O God)? Everything we have has come from You, and we give You only what You first gave us!"* (1 Chronicles 29:14)
- **Good management always begins with having a proper perspective of possessions and property.**

Being a Faithful Manager Requires Understanding That:

DEBT IS A CHAIN, NOT A <u>TROPHY</u>

- **"***Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender."* (Proverbs 22:7)
- **Debt binds your future and restricts your ability to be generous.**
- Solomon - *"If you have put up security for a friend's debt or agreed to guarantee the debt of a stranger - if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said - follow my advice and save yourself, for you have placed yourself at your friend's mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased. Don't put it off; do it now! Don't rest until you do*." (Proverbs 6:1-4)
- **If we find ourselves in debt, or cosigning for another's debt, then we must make it our first priority to get freedom from these chains.**

Being a Faithful Manager Requires Understanding That:

BUDGETING IS AN ACT OF <u>WORSHIP</u>

- *"Don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?"* (Luke 14:28)
- **A budget isn't control — it's clarity, and it's an act of trust in God's provision.**
- *"Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty."* (Proverbs 21:5)
- **A large salary does not eradicate God's requirement for faithful management.**
- *"Know the state of your flocks, and put your heart into caring for your herds, for riches don't last forever, and the crown might not be passed to the next generation."* (Proverbs 27:23-24)
- **Budgeting is worship in a practical form—it is the conscious decision to direct God's resources toward His purposes and seeing ourselves take action in the role of faithful managers of what rightfully belongs to Him.**

Being a Faithful Manager Requires Understanding That:

TITHING UNLOCKS <u>TRUST</u>

- **Tithing is the practice of returning the first 10% of all your income to God through His church, declaring His ownership and your trust in His provision.**
- *"'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,' says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, 'I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put Me to the test! Your crops will be abundant, for I will guard them from insects and disease. Your grapes will not fall from the vine before they are ripe,' says the Lord of Heaven's Armies."* (Malachi 3:10-11)
- **Putting God first with our resources invites His blessings upon our lives.**
- *"Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce. Then He will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine."* (Proverbs 3:9-10)
- **God is looking for people who are willing to give back to Him their first and best.**

Being a Faithful Manager Requires Understanding That:

GENEROSITY FLOWS FROM GOOD <u>MANAGEMENT</u>

- *"Remember this - a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.'"* (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)
- **Managing wisely positions us to give freely and joyfully.**
- *"Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."* (Proverbs 11:24-25)
- **We can't give freely until we learn to manage wisely.**

- **Good managers become great givers because they have margin and mission.**
- Jesus - *"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?"* (Luke 16:10-11)
- **We must aim to manage every cent as though it were kingdom currency, handling it with integrity, releasing it with generosity, and watching God unlock greater blessing on the other side of our faithfulness.**
- ***If you were God, would you trust yourself with double what you have today?***