



Time to Redefine April 29: Mine

Series Summary: There are a lot of words that we hear and use as Christians, whether that be inside or outside of church walls. We use some terms loosely, lose the original meaning, or use certain words in a way where we want them to mean what we selfishly want them to mean. We need to get back to the original meaning if we truly want to understand the Lord, and our faith, better.

Big Idea: It's hard not to use the possessive word "my" when describing what's in your life- "this is my friends, dating partner, job, video game, etc... But is that the mentality we need to have on a spiritual level? Our hearts and minds need to be re-wired to where it should finish that sentence differently.

Schedule:

- Worship
- Short live teaching
- Small group

LIVE TEACHING

Tonight: It's hard not to use the possessive word "my" when describing what's in your life- "this is my friends, dating partner, job, video game, etc... But is that the mentality we need to have on a spiritual level? Our hearts and minds need to be re-wired to where it should finish that sentence differently.

WE ARE STEWARDS, NOT OWNERS

It's kinda hard not to use the possessive word "my or mine" when talking with others.

- We don't say "this is the 9-to-5 time filler I do each day in order so that i don't go hungry, and the Lord has entrusted me with it."....No, we say "this is MY job.
- We don't say "these are the individuals who I enjoy spending time with and laughing with, and I am to steward them as I have been told"....No, we say these are MY friends.
- But just because we say mine or my, this does not mean we are owners of it. Yes, we put forth effort and time, but our hearts need to be in an understanding that we are only stewards.

Genesis 2:15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

We were meant for responsibility: God did not create us to just sit around and live lives that were 100% free of responsibility. We were not created just to be consumers of anything we can get our hands on. We may fantasize that it would come true but those that achieve that are often miserable.

Adam (as well as us) are stewards and not owners because we own nothing!

That is not metaphorically speaking. Biblically we own nothing. David puts this into perspective in Psalms 24...

Psalms 24:1-2 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; **2** for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

Our sin leads us to shrug off our role as stewards- When sin entered the world we inherited corrupted sinful natures. Part of that sinful nature is laziness and a tendency to run away from what we are responsible for.

Briefly Explain: In Matthew 25, Jesus gives the parable of the talents. He uses this example involving three servants- One entrusted with 5 bags of gold, one with 2 bags of gold, and one with one bag. The ones with 5 bags and two bags stewarded their responsibility well, while the servant with one bag handled his poorly. We'll get more to this in small groups, but look at the exchange between the two servants who stewarded theirs well, and what the master had to say to them...

Matthew 25:20-23 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.' **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 two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; 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!'

This is our purpose and Goal! To hear those words, "*Well done, good and faithful servant!*" This is what gives us true purpose and joy. That is what it means that we share in the Masters (Lords) Happiness.

Transition to groups: We are going to look deeper into the parable of the talents, and how we can apply it to our lives in terms of stewardship.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

How is the mindset of the steward different from that of an owner?

NOTE: Steward (or overseer): The steward was a household servant who managed the household affairs for the head of the family. Managing the family involved delegation, discipline, encouragement, and, most importantly, accountability to the head of the household.

What are we called to be good stewards of? In other words, what has God given us that we should make sure we use well to glorify Him?

Leader Note: The answer to this question is extensive! There will also probably be someone to say "everything", which isn't wrong...but the purpose of this question is for us to hear things we might not typically think of. Some worth mentioning if not mentioned:

- Our time
- Our abilities
- Our actions and words towards others

What is the trap of living with a consumer mentality? (“God owes me this”, or “I expect this from God”).

Note: The trap is that if we’re never content then we become entitled. We feel like God owes us something based on our own standards...when He’s already given us the greatest blessing and gift of all (grace and pardoning from hell).

What are the spiritual bad habits if we live with an entitled mindset towards material things?

Note: We’re going to try and determine what’s acceptable vs unacceptable in how we live out that part of our lives. We’re going to make our own rules, our own broken boundaries (that we will eventually break), and ultimately try and play our own God. Our hearts can easily become prideful and hardened if we’re not careful of this.

PARABLE OF THE TALENTS/OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

READ MATTHEW 25:14-15 AS A GROUP

Matthew 25:14-15 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. **15** 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.

What stands out to you in these couple of verses?

NOTE: Possible answers-

- 1. None of them owned the money.** They were not owners, they were stewards.
- 2. All were given some.** No one was exempt from responsibility. This shows us that each and every one of us will be held accountable for how we steward our responsibilities.
- 3. Not all were given the same amount.** We do not like this idea today because we want everything to be even. But the reality is that some of us were entrusted with more. That does not mean any of us are less valued or loved. Christ died for all. He also entrusted some with more than others.

READ MATTHEW 25:16-19 AS A GROUP

Matthew 25:16-18 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. **17** 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.

Why did the man do nothing with the money he was entrusted with?

What does it look like when we act the same way?

Matthew 25:19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.

- **Note:** One day we will have to do likewise! Someday we will stand before God at the Judgment Seat of Christ and give an account for how we stewarded what he has given us.

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How should the desire to hear that phrase "well done, good and faithful servant" shape the way we steward all that we have in our lives?

Note: This is our purpose and goal! To hear those words, "*Well done, good and faithful servant!*" This is what gives us true purpose and joy. That is what it means that we share in the Masters (Lords) Happiness.

Introspective question:

- **Be honest with yourself- is there a part of your life, or has there been in the past, that you treated with a selfish, entitled, or desperate mindset? Maybe you felt like God owed it to you?**
- **Is there a part of your life that you've taken for granted, and haven't truly focused on stewarding it for the Lord?**
- **What steps do you need to take to make sure that glorifying God and stewarding it for Him comes first?**