

(Luke 16:1-13)
“*It’s Not Yours*”

~ INTRO ~

GOD HAS ENTRUSTED...

- Something new to our fellowship (the *Overflow Café*’).

AND NOW THE QUESTION ISN’T...

- “How do we enjoy it?”
 - But rather... “How do we steward it?”

STEWARDSHIP... IS A TOPIC I’VE WRESTLED WITH...

- During different seasons of my Christian walk.

AND TO MY SURPRISE... I’VE DISCOVERED...

- *How God wants to use stewardship in my life.*

TODAY’S STUDY...

- Is timely for us as a church.
 - Because Jesus is teaching us...
 - How to faithfully use what He’s entrusted to us.

~ STUDY ~

I’ve Titled Today’s Message: “It’s Not Yours”

CHURCH... OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS...

- We’ve been studying (1st Corinthians)...
 - And learning how to apply Christianity.

AND THIS MORNING...

- God wants us to understand that our relationship with possessions...
 - Reveals something about our relationship with Him.

IDEA #1 – THE ISSUE (vv.1-2)

The Greek word is (*oi-ko-no-mos*).

- It refers to a manager OR administrator of an estate.

This person had authority and control over:

- Property

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- Business dealings
- Debts

But here’s the critical distinction:

- While the *steward* controlled the assets...
 - He never owned the assets.

We spend most of our lives acquiring things we call *“mine.”*

- My money
- My house
- My career

Jesus tells a story that challenges this entire premise:

- What if none of it is really ours?
- What if we’re managing something that belongs to Someone else?

That’s essentially the foundation of Biblical stewardship.

This is where Jesus’ teaching becomes enormously important for Christians.

- Biblical stewardship begins with ownership.
 - **God owns it & we manage it!**

(Psalm 24:1)

“The earth is the LORD’S, and all its fullness...”

Everything I possess is ultimately something entrusted to me by God.

HERE’S THE ISSUE...

- The steward *wasted* the owner’s goods (v.1b).
 - Literally meaning he *squandered* resources...
 - And lost opportunity.

(1 Cor. 4:2) NLT

“Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.”

- The danger of stewardship is...
 - I can begin treating what I’ve been entrusted with...
 - As though it belongs to me.

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(Deut. 8:17-18) NLT

“[God] did all this so you would never say to yourself, ‘I have achieved this wealth with my own strength and energy.’ Remember the Lord your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful...”

IDEA #2 – THE RESPONSE (vv.3-9)

a) Steward’s response (v.3)

The steward realizes he’s about to lose his position.

So he develops a plan.

- By going to the people who owe his master money.
 - And then manipulates the accounts...
 - To put himself in a better position when he’s out of a job.
- He’s using what he controls today to prepare for tomorrow.
 - And suddenly the dishonest steward demonstrates something...
 - He hadn’t demonstrated before... **foresight.**

He realizes...

- My present situation is temporary.
 - So I need to use my present opportunity...
 - In light of my future reality.

b) Owner’s response (v.8)

*“The rich man had to admire the **dishonest rascal** for being so shrewd. And it is true that the children of this world are **more shrewd** in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light.”*

Jesus isn’t commending his morality. He’s commending his foresight.

(v.9)

Jesus isn’t saying buy your way into heaven or use money dishonestly.

- He’s saying use temporary earthly resources in ways...
 - That have eternal consequences.

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The dishonest steward was shrewd enough to use temporary resources...

- To prepare for his earthly future.

THEREFORE...

- Jesus’ disciples should have enough eternal perspective...
 - To use temporary resources for God’s kingdom.

IDEA #3 – THE LESSON (vv.10-13)

Stewardship reveals lordship!

NOW... Jesus takes the principle beyond money.

JESUS says...

- How I handle what God has entrusted to me...
 - Reveals something about my faithfulness to God.

(vv.10-12)

(v.13) Eventually stewardship becomes a question of worship: Who is my master?

Jesus is saying...

- Your handling of money isn’t disconnected from your spiritual life.
 - It actually reveals something about what you’re really worshiping.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CHURCH IN 2026?

Our *culture teaches* us to think in terms of ownership:

- I earned it / I deserve it / It’s mine.

JESUS TEACHES HIS FOLLOWERS...

- To think in terms of stewardship:
 - What does God want me to do with what He’s entrusted to me?

THE POINT IS BIGGER THAN MATERIALISM!

- The core issue is... **have I forgotten Who gave it to me?**

LISTEN...

- A person can tithe AND still serve money.

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- A person can give generously AND still find identity in wealth.
- A church can have a large budget AND still trust money more than God.

(Luke 16) presses deeper than – *"How much should I give?"*

(Luke 16) asks...

- *"Who owns what I have?"*
- *"Who am I serving?"*
- *"Am I faithful with what has been entrusted to me?"*
- *"Am I using temporary resources with eternity in view?"*

Am I living strategically for the world that is coming...

- OR am I just being comfortable in the world that's passing away?

~ IN CLOSING ~

CHURCH... it's not yours.

- Your life isn't yours.
- Your time isn't yours.
- Your abilities aren't yours.
- Your opportunities aren't yours.
- Your resources aren't yours.

THEY'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED TO YOU BY GOD.

- And one day your stewardship will end.

SO...

- Let's use what is temporary for what is eternal.

Stewardship: *Is using temporary resources for an eternal impact.*