

Stewardship of Our Time and Talents

Compiled by Paul R. Blake

Introduction:

- A. Luke 19:12-26
 - 1. Parables involving servants and resources. What is Jesus trying to communicate to people? We are the servants: He is the master
- B. Stewardship
 - 1. As servants entrusted with a charge, we are stewards of God's blessings
 - 2. Preaching the Gospel - Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 1:16
 - 3. Representing the love of God to men - Matt. 5:13-16
 - 4. Encouraging the saints - Heb. 10:24; 1Thes. 5:14
- C. Stewardship is often considered in terms of material objects, things that can be maintained or managed in a physical way
 - 1. Money, the earth, abundance
 - 2. And things we do not commonly think of in terms of stewardship, intangibles like time, ability, opportunity

I. STEWARDS OF TIME

- A. Eph. 5:15-16
- B. The problem with time - arranging our priorities
 - 1. Matt. 6:33 - "Put God first." No, put God before
 - 2. Necessary functions
 - a. Working for a living - 1Tim. 5:8
 - b. Guiding the family - Eph. 5:23 - 6:4
 - c. We are to be otherwise busy with study and good works
 - d. James 1:27; 2Tim. 2:15; Titus 3:8

II. STEWARDS OF ABILITY

- A. 1Peter 4:10-11
 - 1. An unfortunate misconception that often exists is that since God has given everyone the same set of instructions, we are all the same
 - 2. Rom. 12:3-6
- B. God has given you abilities, and expects you to use them
 - 1. Find what you can do and do it
- C. Matt. 25:29
 - 1. A complicated principle; what does it mean?
 - 2. God has given everyone abilities; if we use them, God will bless us bountifully. If we do not use them, what we have will be taken away

III. STEWARDS OF OPPORTUNITY

- A. Gal. 6:10
 - 1. Many times opportunities are fleeting; one may only recognize the potential when they are gone, and was unprepared to take advantage
 - 2. Opportunities require more stewardship than time and ability; opportunities require that we search for them

3. Imagine the parable of the talents where the master hid them and told the servants they had to find them before using them
 4. 1Peter 3:15; James 4:17
 5. We may not always succeed; we may make mistakes; but we must try
- B. You will give an account in the Day of Judgment, not only for what you did in this life, but also for those things that you did not do
1. The Lord did not accept the excuse of the lazy one talent servant. What makes you think he will accept yours?