

October 2, 2014

# When Fear Drives ... ...Our Stewardship

Matthew 25:14-30



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Edward Christian Church

# Stewardship

Simple Definition...

...Practice of Managing

...Another's Resources



# Stewardship

*“The earth is the LORD’s, / everything in it, the world, / all who live in it.” Psa 24:1, I Cor 10:26*

## Stewardship Fact #1-

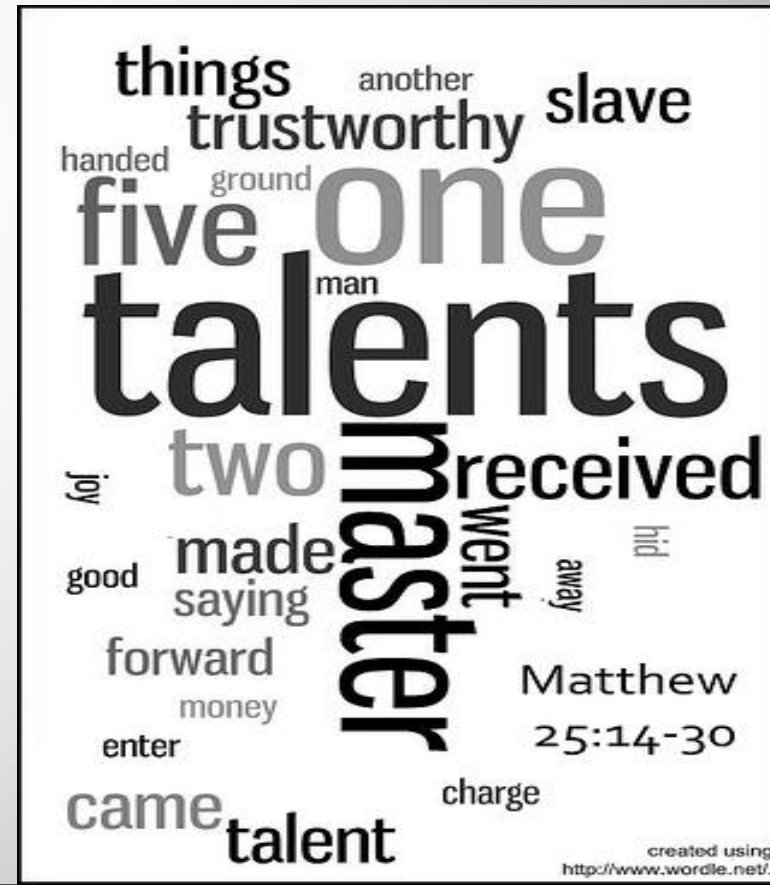
- God Owns It All

## Stewardship Fact #2

- We Don’t Own Anything

## Stewardship Fact #3

- We are Called to Manage...  
...Gods Possessions



# Stewardship

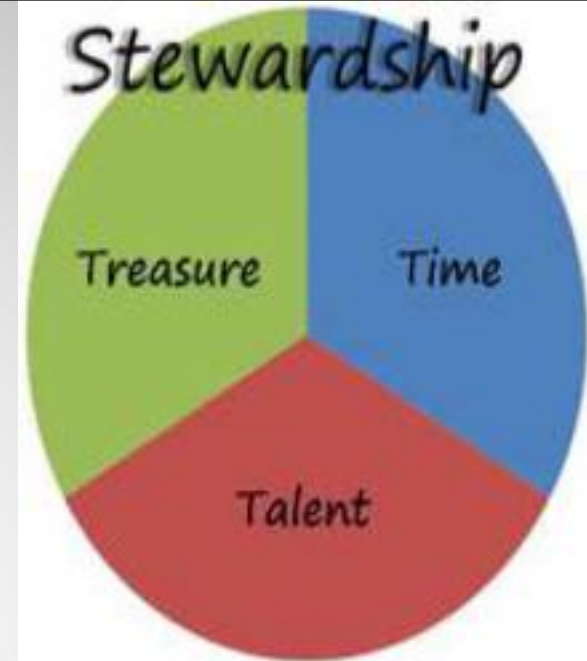
**We Are All Stewards of the...**

- Time
- Talent
- Treasures

**...That the Master Has Entrusted to Us**

**One Day Each One of Us Will Be Called to...**

**...Give an Account for How We Have Managed It**





# Fear Driven

Fear is..

- Feeling of Dread, Alarm, Panic, / Anxiety
- Learned Response but...
  - ...Can Be Unlearned (2 Cor. 10:5).
- If Not It Produces Negative Consequences.
- Eventually We Begin to Operate Driven by Fear
- Paralyzes *decision making, immobilizes action, hinders relationships, lowers self-esteem, stifles joy*
- Effect

This S



**Fear does not  
prevent death.  
It prevents life.**

- NAGUIB MAHFOUZ -

# Stewardship

## Built on Faith

- Trust
- Active
- Increasing
- Rewarded

## Built on Fear

- Dis-Trust
- In-Active
- Decreasing
- Thwarted

**Faith**

**FEAR**

# **Fear Mode Causes Confusion**

## **Faith Driven**

- **Clear**
- **Went -Positive**
- **lead over, carry over, transfer to pursue the journey on which one has**
- **Purpose**
- **Power**
- **Determined to Make a Profit**

## **Fear Driven**

- **Confused**
- **Went- Negative**
- **go away- sufferings of good things taken away from one**
- **No Purpose**
- **No Power Needed**
- **Determined Not to Take a Loss**

# **Fear Driven Makes Us Cynical**

**Fear Gave Him a Negative View on Life:**

*"I knew that you are a hard man" (24)*

**The Other Two Never Saw the Master that Way**

- **Positive About Their Relationship**
- **Believed They Would Be Rewarded.**
- **They Shared in His Joy**

**It was His Attitude.**

- **Fear is a Way of Negative Thinking**
- **Saw the Master as a Mean Man**
- **Let Fear Swallow Him Up!**

**God is a Loving Heavenly Father w- Plan for us All!**



# **Fear Drives Complacency**

**Fear Makes us Dig a Hole / Hide What Needed ...  
...to Be Put to Work.**

***"I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine" (25)***

**Realize Your Life has Purpose**

- God has Given Us Talents and Resources.**
- Its Time to Dig Up Your Talents, Gifts, Dreams, Goals, Hobbies, And Plans, and Invest in Others**
- Pass On What You Have Learned to Others**

# **Fear Makes Us Cop Out**

**Excuses Keep Us From Being Productive.**

**He Blamed the Character /Personality of the Master..**

**... as the Cause for His Lack of Investing**

**What's Interesting is that the Third Man Agreed to Take the Money and Invest It.**

**It was Only When Fear Set in that He Started to Make Excuses.**

# Five Major Excuses (24-25)

- **I Didn't Do It** - consists of denial or blaming others *“lord I knew....”*
- **It Wasn't So Bad** -minimize our sins / mistakes *“I went / hid...”*
- **Yes, but....** Admission of guilt, followed by an excuse. *“I couldn't help it,” “It wasn't really me”- “I knew...”*
- **It's Not My Fault.** We shift responsibility to others, the past, or anything or anyone rather than owning up to our own responsibility. *“you are a hard man...”*
- **I Can't Do It.** We sell ourselves short. Fear causes the mind to shut down. Instead of seeing opportunities, we see obstacles. *“I was afraid...”*

# Fear Costs Us Our Potential

*Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. (26-29)*

- **There's a Price Tag Attached to Fear**
- **What Doesn't Develop Deteriorates**
- **In the End, He Loses the Initial Investment**
- **Fear Diminishes us; Faith Enriches us**
- **If You Have Buried Your Talents Because of Fear, Go / Dig Them Up and Begin to Make an Investment of Your Life for God's Glory.**



ring Back Some of God's  
Time Talent &

And God...

- Responded – *gained*
- Rewarded – *eternally*



The Others...

- Reached Out- *invested*



# The Lord's Prayer and Stewardship

## I CANNOT SAY...

- **"our"** if i have no room in my life for others and their needs.
- **"father"** if i do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily living.
- **"who art in heaven"** if all my interests and pursuits are in earthly things.
- **"hallowed be thy name"** if i, who am called to bear his name, am not holy.
- **"thy kingdom come"** if i am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the righteous reign of god.
- **"thy will be done"** if I am unwilling or resentful of having god's will in my life.
- **"on earth as it is in heaven"** unless I am truly ready to give myself to his service here and now.
- **"give us this day our daily bread"** without expending honest effort for it, or by ignoring the genuine needs of others.

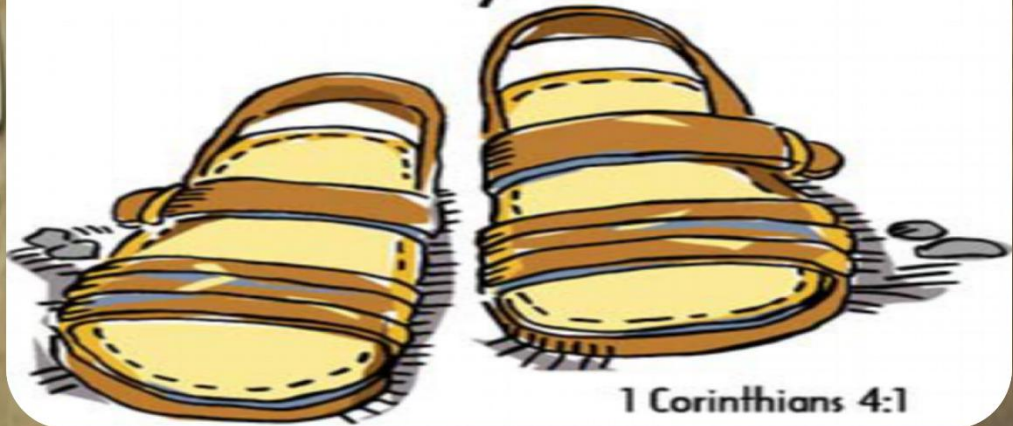
# The Lord's Prayer and Stewardship

## I CANNOT SAY...

- ***"forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us"*** if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone.
- ***"lead us not into temptation"*** if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.
- ***"deliver us from evil"*** if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the ultimate weapon of prayer.
- ***"thine is the kingdom"*** if I do not give the kind of disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.
- ***"thine is the power"*** if I fear what my neighbors may say or do.
- ***"forever"*** if I am too anxious about each day's events.
- ***"amen"*** unless I can honestly say, ***"cost what it may, this is my prayer."***

# time tale

Think of us in this way,  
as servants of Christ  
and stewards of  
God's mysteries.



1 Corinthians 4:1

...embracing God's investment strategy