

## Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

## Stewards

Scripture Reading: Luke 19.11-27

1 Corinthians 4.2 *"It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."*

A steward differs from a servant in that the servant is told what to do by the master directly. The steward has the responsibility of care, governed by the customs, usages and directives of the household, in a manner that pleases his master. This meaning is provided in the origin of the word in the Bible. It comes from a combination of two words, one meaning a house or household and the other meaning tradition, custom or case law. A steward is one who works according to the tried custom and order of a household.

Today's reading is the well known parable of Jesus about the master who gave various talents to his servants and then assessed their stewardship. In the parable they were clearly a form of money, but to us, what do they represent? Make a list. Here are some possibilities:

**First all our possessions, including 'our' money.** Do you have a bank balance, investments, superannuation, a home, a motor car. You are a steward of these things, and they really belong to God. Are you willing to put these things at risk for Him? Do you commit all these decisions to Him?

**Second, your time.** How slender is the thread on which life hangs. Are you investing what you have, while it is in your control? If you expect a dividend in eternity, how much of your time are you investing in the Kingdom?

**Third, your personal gifts and abilities.** God has not made us all alike, He has given us each abilities of our own. We are only responsible for

what we have received, but we are responsible for that as stewards.  
1 Corinthians 12.4-11.

**Fourth, our influence and ministry to others.** Have you ever thought about this as a talent. Do you shut yourself up in your house with your TV or Internet access? God wants you to get out into the community where you can be hurt and be an influence for Him. Check out the story Jesus told. Luke 10.25-37.

**Fifth, there is the talent of your table.** Has God blessed you with a home where there is warm fellowship, safety, shelter? How much of this talent do you return to God? Do you have a spare bed room? Have you ever thought of tithing your table? This is the ancient art of hospitality.

**Sixth, there is the talent of your mind.** God has given you a sound mind. How much of your mental powers and intellectual training and ability do you give back to God? How much time do you really spend taking in God's word? How much time do you spend sharing

what you know with others?

**Seventh** there is a very precious talent some of us have in trust for a short time, **our children.** Do you invest your children for the Kingdom? The decision then is theirs, but the outcome can be immense.

**The Parable of the Talents** teaches the basic principles of stewardship and compares the assessment of our lives as stewards in comparison to the judgment that is to come on those who have chosen to reject Jesus Christ. We should never confuse these future judgments. The parable is a picture of this relationship which the believer has with his Lord. The teaching behind it comes from the great teaching passages of the Bible.

1. Every Christian is a steward v13
2. Stewardship is often in a risky, hostile environment v14
3. The steward is responsible for his stewardship v15
4. The gain of our investment belongs to the Lord v16
5. The steward is to be rewarded for his

faithfulness v17

6. The steward is free to invest his talent as he is best able v18
7. The reward received is appropriate to the steward's abilities v19
8. Not all make wise decisions v20
9. The steward's performance was in accord with his view of his master v21
10. The master's assessment of the steward's service is according to this view, and is thus just v22
11. The master expects a return on his investment, even if small v23
12. Some will be rich at the coming of the Lord, but some will be bankrupt v26
13. Those who are the rebels to the Kingdom of God face a fearful judgment at His coming. (Take time right now to consider your position before God. Put your trust in Jesus as your Saviour, and take Him as your Lord.)

Beside each of these themes place one or more verses from another part of the Bible which teach in some detail the themes illustrated in the parable.

The overriding message of all this is that stewardship is all about the wise investment of the talents we have received, even in this hard, unresponsive, risky world of ours. They are not to be conserved, stored up or hidden. We will be called to account (not judged as the rebellious and ungodly are to be judged) for our astute and effective use of what God has put into our hands.

The stewardship themes: Your Bible verses could include: 1) 1 Corinthians 3.21-4.2; 2) Matthew 10.16; 3) 1 Corinthians 4.2; 4) 2 Timothy 1.12; 5) 1 Corinthians 3.14; 6) 1 Corinthians 3.10; 7) Luke 10.7, 1 Timothy 5.17, 2 Timothy 2.6; 8) 1 Timothy 1.18-20; 9) Ephesians 3.14-21; 10) Matthew 12.36&37, 2 Timothy 4.6-8; 11) 2 Thessalonians 2.16&17, Hebrews 13.13-16, 13.20&21; 12) 1 Corinthians 3.14&15; 13) Revelation 20.11-15. Check these out in your Bible. You may do better than me.

# Welcome

## Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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