

## 7 Motivations Of A Steward

### 1. Motivated by God's Word

The following Scriptures should encourage you in the knowledge that God truly owns everything:

Our God, we thank Thee... for all things come of Thee, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

I Chronicles 29:13, 14 KJV

The earth is the Lord's.

Exodus 9:29 KJV

Thus saith the Lord, 'The heaven is My throne, and the earth is My footstool... For all those things hath Mine hand made...'

Isaiah 66:1, 2 KJV

Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool... Hath not My hand made all these things?

Acts 7:49, 50 KJV

Thou art the God... Thou hast made heaven and earth.

II Kings 19:15 KJV

Thou, even Thou, art Lord alone; Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and Thou preservest them all.

Nehemiah 9:6 KJV

I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto Me.

Jeremiah 27:5 KJV

And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands.

Hebrews 1:10 KJV

God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that He is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands.

Acts 17:24 KJV

Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this? In whose hand is the soul [life] of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?

Job 12:9, 10 KJV

The heavens are Thine, the earth also is Thine: as for the world and the fullness thereof, Thou hast founded them.

Psalm 89:11 KJV

For the Lord is a great God... The sea is His and He made it: and His hands formed the dry land.

Psalm 95:3, 5 KJV

The most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

Daniel 4:17 KJV

Jesus answered, "Thou couldest have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above..."

John 19:11 KJV

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 4:11 KJV

## **2. Motivated to Plan Ahead**

The astute business person looks ahead and plans for the future. He or she manages money so as to provide benefits, not only for the present, but also for the future. Christ is suggesting that, in doing good works, we should consider our future with just as much ingenuity as the dishonest steward. For the sake of Jesus Christ, we are mandated with a responsibility to use every means at our disposal to spread the good news to mankind. In doing so, our gains will have great effect upon eternal matters.

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The shrewdness with which the unjust servant negated his fiduciary responsibility to his lord was commended. He promoted his cause with the utmost care and effort. With an unprincipled passion he sought to use his master's money in securing advantage after his inevitable dismissal. Christ was simply asking those to whom he spoke to be as inventive for a better cause.

The parable of Luke 16 ends with a piece of advice for His hearers. He says to use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone you will be

welcomed into eternal dwelling. Money, tainted as it can be, should be used in such a way that, when we die and our money is gone, we can say it went for the best use.

The message is clear: in our financial stewardship to God, we should be at least as whole-hearted and energetic as was the steward in prosecuting his own interests.

### 3. Motivated to Give More than is Expected

As good stewards, we are required to work hard. If you work for someone else, you need

“Give more than is required, go the second mile and the third and the fourth.”		to do it with everything you have. Give more than is required, go the second mile and the third and fourth. As quoted before, Proverbs 6:6-11 tells us, “Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no
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overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.

How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest—and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man” (NIV).

Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12 NIV

Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

Proverbs 10:4-5 NIV

Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.

Proverbs 22:29 NIV

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might...

Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV

A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.

Proverbs 20:4 NIV

According to the above Scriptures, we should approach life and work like the ant.

Although the ant has no boss, it still works extremely hard in order to provide for its

needs. A lot of people today could learn a valuable lesson from the ant. Some today have the attitude that if they can get someone else to do the work for them, then why should they put themselves out? Why not let someone else do the work? Why not let the government provide for me? Many today have little or no initiative, are not able to put themselves to work and must always have someone else instruct them and supervise them into order to keep them working.

#### **4. Motivated to be Diligent**

Some people today would rather ask for a handout instead of going to work. You see them waiting at the freeway exits with a sign which reads, "Will Work for Food." After offering one person a day's work, the response was nothing more than profanity and gestures. The integrity of this person was certainly lacking.

A person's usefulness is determined to a great degree by his motivation to work. Idleness is not looked upon kindly in biblical passages nor within our society today. In Proverbs 6:6, we can learn a great lesson from the ant. He has no guide to show him how to work. He has no supervisor to make him work, yet he is self-motivated by the natural instinct of preservation to provide for future needs.

#### **5. Motivated to be Self-Disciplined**

If we are to lead prosperous and successful lives (prosperity is not to be thought of as having money), we have to apply Biblical instruction to work hard and lead a disciplined lifestyle. Clearly, we are to do the very best that we possibly can with the talents and strength that God has given to us.

Many people think that the world owes them a living. It is this kind of attitude that destroys the work ethic in our society. Our country's welfare system does little to build character and establish the needy into better life-changing environments. To pass out monies year after year to those with outstretched hands without expecting any change in life-style does little to improve the society for future generations.

"A steward realizes that self-discipline is an important key to prosperity and success."

## **6. Motivated to be Productive**

Good stewardship is not merely an occupation or a profession, rather it involves being productive. In Jesus' story of the talents, the stewards reported their earnings. One servant, however, merely hid his entrustment and earned no increase. He lost his portion. The faithful ones not only had increases, but received even more because of their faithfulness. From the very beginning, God commanded creation to be fruitful. God is energetic, creative and imaginative; He is the life-giver. Stewards are also to be concerned with productivity and so cultivate God's creation to be productive.

A warning about being productive is seen in Jesus' story about the unfruitful branch of His Kingdom which He says will be cut off by the Husbandman (John 15:1-5). God wants to have a productive kingdom and stewards who will help them do so.

## **7. Motivated to Develop God's Gifts**

Each one of us has been given access to gifts from God. Are you developing those gifts? Are you using and exercising the giftings of God? If God has blessed you with houses and lands, businesses and possessions, are you trusting in them and pursuing more or are you developing your good stewardship of them? If these things are meaningful to you and if you give all of your time and money to seeking more, then be careful because you won't have them forever. However, if you are pursuing God and the things of His Kingdom, God will probably keep trusting you with more.

If we are idle and lazy, we will be judged accordingly (Ecclesiastes 10:18). At judgment day, we will give account for every idle word that we speak (Matthew 12:36). If we must account for an idle word, what about idle time? The Apostle Paul encouraged the Ephesians to redeem the time (Ephesians 5:16). The Greek word is exagorazo and means "to buy up or rescue from loss" (Strong's Concordance).

There is a great lesson to be learned from the Matthew 25 parable. When God invests something into your life and allows you stewardship over it, you must use it for His glory and His Kingdom. If you do nothing with it, God will take it away and give it to another. If you do not know how to invest it into the kingdom or how to take care of it, you had better seek out some wisdom. God is very interested in our caretaking ability and what

we do with our time, money, possessions and ministry giftings. What we do, where we go, and the actions we take are very important to God.

Remember, we are not the owners of all that God has given to us; we are only stewards (managers) and therefore responsible for the gifts and accountable for their use.