

## **Character That Makes The Steward**

**Since stewards are charged with great authority and responsibility, their character cannot be flawed. Additionally, their value systems must be ones of great integrity. Faithfulness was a fundamental virtue of a person who served as a steward.**

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It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.  
I Corinthians 4:2 KJV

The steward of the rich man in Luke 16 was obviously not faithful to his lord. He was dishonest in his dealings and made it a point to look out for himself first. Consider the following responsibilities of a good steward.

### **Guided by Integrity**

Good stewards of time and finance are not only faithful and responsible, there is an honesty and integrity about them. The word integrity means, “being complete, unimpaired, perfect condition, of sound moral principle, uprightness” (Webster’s Dictionary). Proverbs 19:1 says, “Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool” (KJV). True riches are not determined by what a person possesses, but by his or her personal integrity. Is it more important to have or to be? Someone can take that which we have, but they cannot take that which we are.

### **Wholly Devoted to God**

What are you controlling? What does God already own that you are trying to keep absolute control over by refusing to acknowledge God’s ownership? What about your business or your house? What about your transportation vehicles, your recreational vehicles, your clothes, toys or other worldly goods? What about your body? According to Romans 12:1, your body belongs to the Lord. Does your time belong to you or to God? What about your income, your savings, your investments and your other possessions? Do these things belong to you or to God? Have you been allowed oversight of them for the purpose of showing good stewardship or have you taken them over assuming that they are yours only? Everything you say, every decision you make, every action you take must be accountable to the principles of God.

What does God already own that you are trying to keep absolute control over by refusing to acknowledge God’s ownership?

What about your entire life—your dreams, your goals, your visions? Are they born of God or have you allowed your carnal nature to take complete control? Are you a thief or a steward? If a steward, what kind of steward are you? Are you one that God can trust with complete care or are you careless in your stewardship?

## **Faithful**

Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful  
I Corinthians 4:2-3 NIV

Deuteronomy 5:32 warns us that we need to be careful to do what the Lord has told us to do. We are to walk in the ways of God, not turning to the right or left. When you give to God, you must ask yourself if God is directing your decision. Does the amount accurately reflect who you are, how God has blessed you and what resources He has blessed you with?

What about you? What is important to you? When you see how God has blessed you and as He becomes first in your life, you realize that He is faithful to supply all of your needs. Are you faithful to Him?