

## **Resources Of A Steward**

### **Entrusted with Much**

Our life's stewardship should reflect God's interest in all that He has entrusted to us. Genesis 1:26 records that God made man to rule over all the earth and all life on earth, both plant and animal. In Genesis 2:15, man was made steward over the Garden, in which there were precious stones, gold, and rivers.

In other words, man was created for more than going to heaven after a lifetime of waiting. He was created to be a faithful steward over the work of God's hands. This is a great trust that God places in our lives.

More than just money or finances, it is our entire life that we must handle with faithfulness, responsibility, accountability, honesty and integrity. Stewardship is bringing everything we have to offer under the Lordship of Christ. What kind of a person makes a good steward? A person who has a great respect for God and his creation.

### **Dominion Over Creation**

Only God has the power to speak the word and cause something to happen instantly, but with man, work is necessary. Adam was the sole steward appointed over all natural resources, as well as plant and animal life; this was a substantial entrustment from God. So when Adam disobeyed and lost that leadership, it affected a lot more than his descendants; it affected the sea, the air, the earth and life, as well. When the steward went astray, that which had been entrusted to him was severely injured. According to Romans 8:22, the whole earth groans in travail. When Adam and Eve sinned, God judged them. Man was required to leave the plush Garden of Eden. God commanded this in Genesis 3:19, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground" (KJV).

Unlike third world countries, in this country we do not have a lower class. Though many think otherwise, every healthy person who wants to can work, be self-supporting, have plenty to eat and shelter for sleep. There are, of course, economic cycles of employment, job availability, discomfort and limited opportunity for growth. But when compared to the poor of this world, those who lack the most in this country are far better off than almost anywhere else in the world.

In the United States, a great deal of emphasis is placed upon having fun, spending time in leisurely activity and taking care of the whims of “me.” Many are content to put as little into their work as they think they can get away with. Far too many employees are receiving a full paycheck for less than a full day’s work. The Scriptures note in II Thessalonians 3:10, “... If any would not work, neither should he eat” (KJV).

## **Use of Personal Resources**

Every human being alive must be a steward of his or her own personal resources of skill, knowledge, strength, possessions and influence. We don’t need to necessarily aspire for more or feel discouraged over areas of what we may perceive as lack. We just need to use what we have.

Hard work, efficient use of our available resources, and a disciplined personal life will lead to prosperity and success.

In Matthew 25:14-30 the parable of the talents is recorded. This story tells of a certain man who distributed his wealth among three servants, giving to each according to his ability. As this parable would imply, our abilities vary individually, including our ability to earn money.

The parable proceeds to tell how each man invested his seed money. The first two traded theirs. That is, they used it and, in the process, they doubled the original amount. The last person, however, tried to hoard his by doing nothing with it. In the end, each had to account for his actions.