

Sermon Questions: Parable of Stewards

Matthew 25:14-30

1. Pastor Mark tells the story about loaning his bicycle to a boy, only to have the boy destroy the bike. Share a time when you gave something or loaned something to someone and that person failed to take good care of it. How did you feel about that?
2. List some of the blessings, opportunities, and abilities that God has entrusted to you. In what ways are you managing those things well? In what ways could you improve?
3. This story reminds us that we are managers, not owners. Why is that truth important?
4. Pastor Mark points out that in the story of the Stewards, we don't all get the same amount to manage. Given that reality, where should we put our focus?
5. Why are we so tempted to focus on what others have that we don't, rather than putting the focus on doing the best with what has been entrusted to us?
6. How does expressing gratitude help us do a better job of managing what has been entrusted to us?
7. Pastor Mark also points out that the wealthy man in the story did not accept the excuses of the unfaithful steward. What is the difference between an acceptable explanation and an unacceptable excuse?
8. Are there some areas in your life where you are currently relying on excuses in order to avoid doing hard work?
9. Why is it important to take personal responsibility for our opportunities and our results?

10. The Bible offers us a two-fold message: First, we are supposed to have faith in God. Second, God has put faith in us. Why is the second part of this message important today?

11. In what ways might the problems in our country be overcome or improved by a re-commitment to gratitude for opportunities and a sense of personal responsibility for results?