



**UNLEASHED  
STEWARDSHIP:  
FAITHFUL WITH  
WHAT GOD HAS  
ENTRUSTED**

**Matthew 25:14 – 30 (NKJV)**

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# Biblical Stewardship

## Short Definition:

Biblical stewardship is the faithful, obedient management of **ALL** that God has entrusted to us — our **time, talents, resources, relationships**, and **influence** —used wisely and generously for His glory, the good of others, and the advancement of His Kingdom.

**PSALM 24:1**

**1 CORINTHIANS 4:2**

**MATTHEW 25:14 – 30**

In Unleashed Stewardship, we recognize that **nothing** we have is merely **owned** — **everything** is **entrusted**, and we are called to **release it in faithful service to God.**

# **Faithful with What God Has Entrusted**

## **MATTHEW 25:14 - 30 (NKJV)**

**Stewardship is not ownership.**

**God is calling His people to release,  
not restrain, what He has entrusted.**



# Purpose & Big Idea

## Purpose:

- To understand biblical stewardship
- To connect stewardship to **giving, serving, and leadership**
- To prepare our hearts for accountability before God

## Big Idea:

God entrusts resources to His servants and **expects** faithful, fruitful stewardship **until He returns.**



# The Parable's Context

## Biblical Context:

- Part of Jesus' Olivet Address in Matthew 24 - 25
- Teaching on readiness, faithfulness, and accountability
- A “talent” is a large sum equal to 20 years’ wages.

## Key Insight:

This parable is not about money alone.

It is about **life management for the Kingdom.**



# **Stewardship Starts with Ownership.**

**MATTHEW 25:14 – 15 (NKJV)**

**14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.**

**15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.**



# **Text Truth**

**The master owns everything, the servants receive what belongs to him, and distribution is according to ability.**

**Stewardship Principle:  
Everything we manage belongs to God.**



# Stewardship Starts with Ownership.

## **Giving Connection:**

We don't give what is ours — we return what is His.

## **Serving Connection:**

God entrusts gifts and abilities to be used, not admired.

## **Leadership Connection:**

Leaders are entrusted with influence, not control.



# **God Expects Action, Not Intention.**

**MATTHEW 25:16 – 17 (NKJV)**

**<sup>16</sup> Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents.**

**<sup>17</sup> And likewise he who had received two gained two more also.**

# **God Expects Action, Not Intention.**

## **What did the Faithful Servants do?**

- They acted immediately.
- They risked what was entrusted.
- They multiplied what they received.

**Stewardship Principle:  
Faithful stewardship requires  
movement.**

## **Giving:**

- Generosity multiplies impact.

## **Serving:**

- Ministry grows when people show up and engage.

## **Leadership:**

- Leaders must act in faith, not freeze in fear.



# **Faithfulness Is Measured by Obedience – Not Amount.**

## **Key Observation:**

- Both servants received the same praise.
- Faithfulness is not equality of outcome.

**Stewardship Principle:  
God rewards faithfulness, not  
comparison.**



# Application:

- Small gifts matter
- Hidden service matters
- Quiet leadership matters



# **Fear Causes Us to Bury What God Gave.**

**MATTHEW 25:18 (NKJV)**

**But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.**



## **MATTHEW 25:24 – 25 (NKJV)**

**24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed.**

**25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’**

# The Unfaithful Servant

## What did the Unfaithful Servant do?

- He did nothing.
- He acted out of fear.
- He misunderstood the master's character.

**Stewardship Principle:  
Fear paralyzes stewardship.**



## **In Giving:**

- Fear says, “I might not have enough”

## **In Serving:**

- Fear says, “I’m not qualified”

## **In Leadership:**

- Fear says, “What if I fail?”



# **Wrong Views of God Produce Wrong Behavior.**

## **The Servant's Problem:**

- He saw the master as harsh.
- **Fear replaced trust.**

## **Truth:**

- How you see God determines how you steward.



**Application:**  
**God is not looking to trap us -**  
**He is looking to trust us.**



# **Stewardship Always Ends with Accountability.**

**MATTHEW 25:19 – 23 (NKJV)**

**19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.**

**20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’**

**21 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’**

**22 He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’**



**23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’**



# Stewardship Always Ends with Accountability.

## After a Long Time:

- The master returned.
- Every servant gave an account.

## Rewards:

- Praise
- Promotion
- Participation in joy



# **Stewardship Principle:**

**Faithfulness "now" leads to  
joy "later".**



# “Enter Into the Joy of Your Lord”

## **Joy of Stewardship:**

- Not just reward
- Relationship
- Responsibility at a higher level

## **Leadership Connection:**

- Faithful leaders are entrusted with more influence.

## **Serving Connection:**

- Faithful servants find fulfillment in God’s joy.



# **Unused Stewardship is Lost Stewardship.**

**MATTHEW 25:26 – 30 (NKJV)**

**26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed.**

**27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.**



**28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.**

**29 ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.**

**30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’**



# Unused Stewardship is Lost Stewardship.

(Verses 26 - 30)

## Used Strong Words:

- Wicked
- Lazy
- Unprofitable

## Truth:

Neutral stewardship does not exist.



# **Application:**

- **What we refuse to use, God removes.**
- **What we release, God multiplies.**



# Giving: Stewardship of Resources

## Biblical Giving Is:

- Trust in God
- Worship
- Kingdom investment

## Unleashed Giving:

- Moves from obligation → obedience
- Moves from fear → faith



# Question:

- **What has God asked you to release financially?**



# Serving: Stewardship of Gifts

## Serving Is:

- Stewardship of time and ability
- Evidence of gratitude
- Participation in God's work

## Unleashed Serving:

- “Here am I, send me”.
- Willing availability over perfect ability

# Leadership: Stewardship of Influence

## Leadership Is:

- Responsibility, not privilege
- Accountability, not position

## Unleashed Leadership:

- Leads by example
- Develops others
- Multiplies impact



# Final Reflection & Call To Action

## Reflection Questions:

- What has God entrusted to me?
- Am I multiplying or burying it?
- Where is God calling me to release my faith?

## Closing Thought:

Unleashed stewardship is living every day knowing God will return — and wanting Him to say, “Well done.”



# PRAYER

## Prayer Focus:

- Surrender
- Courage
- Faithful obedience
- Kingdom impact

