



## Stewarding Your Stuff in 2023

January 8, 2023

Have you ever wondered why is it that some people experience more supernatural authority and power than others?

*Luke 16:10–12 “He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. Therefore, if you have not been faithful in the use of unrighteous wealth, who will entrust the true riches to you? And if you have not been faithful in the use of that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own?”*

We are not owners. We are managers. God owns it.

### **If everything we have belongs to God, are we spending our money to achieve God’s goals?**

There is something available to us that Jesus describes as “true riches”. And the pathway to being entrusted with these true riches, in part, is properly stewarding the stuff and the money that God extends to us.

In the Luke 16 passage, Jesus is talking about the true riches that God wants to release to us now.

If we are responsible with our money. Then we will be trusted with greater responsibility. Such as, spiritual responsibility, spiritual authority, and spiritual power. These are true riches in the kingdom of God.

God wants to trust you with true riches if you will be faithful with the material things that you are given to manage—your stuff and your money.

### **The blessings that come with good stewardship:**

#### **1. God blesses you Spiritually.**

God will entrust greater spiritual authority, responsibility, and power.

#### **2. Bless you Financially.**

The best way to be financially secure is to be generous and give to the Lord faithfully.

*Malachi 3:7–12 “From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD of hosts. “But you say, ‘How shall we return?’ Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this,” says the LORD of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows. Then I will rebuke the devourer for you, so that it will not destroy the fruits of the ground; nor will your vine in the field cast its grapes,” says the LORD of hosts. “All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land,” says the LORD of hosts.*

God doesn’t need our money; there is a deeper issue. Their lack of giving is communicating that they don’t value God.

Hundreds of years prior to Malachi’s days, God spelled out for people how they ought to handle their money. These are the “guidelines”:

- a. Earn money ethically—no schemes, corruptions, back door deals, gray-area.
- b. Spend money wisely—not foolishly or carelessly; avoid destructive debt; save money consistently for your future; give generously to the poor.
- c. And as God says, “And I’m establishing the practice of tithing.” The word simply means a tenth, ten percent.

God is serious about us bringing the tithe into the place of worship to honor Him and to get His work done on the earth. If we do, He promises to open heaven and pour out blessings on us until they overflow.

### **“I can’t make 100% work, how in the world am I going to make 90% work?”**

God says, “Test me in this and see if I won’t open heaven for you and pour out blessings until they overflow.”

The way to be financially secure is to be generous in our giving.

### 3. God will bless you Physically

*Read Psalm 41:1-3*

Now, there are times that God has decided to take some very Godly people home without healing them. Sometimes God's plan that is hard to understand but is somehow better. But that is an exception to the rule. The rule is that God will restore the giver to health.

### 4. God blesses you Emotionally

*Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

*Proverbs 14:21 "Happy is he who is gracious to the poor."*

*Acts 20:35 "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

So, living a life of generosity causes God to trust you with greater Spiritual authority and responsibility, makes you financially secure, healthier, and happier and that is not all...]

### 5. God blesses you Eternally

God's greatest rewards for giving are the eternal ones:

#### A. Our Welcome into Heaven

*Read Luke 16:1-9* | Jesus commends the dishonest steward for his shrewdness. He used present opportunities to prepare for future rewards.

Invest into the lives of people by faithfully giving now. Then there will many waiting to welcome you into heaven.

#### B. Our House in Heaven

*John 14:2 "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you."*

Think about it. The one building your house in heaven is Jesus Christ—the architect of the universe! HE has gone to prepare a place for YOU.

#### C. Our Treasures in Heaven

*Matthew 19:21 "Jesus said to him, "If you want to be complete, go and sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

This young man was concerned about losing his treasure now to follow Jesus. But Jesus wanted him to know that he could have treasure in heaven forever if he would. But he would not. Then Peter asked Jesus what there would be for them since they had left everything to follow Him. Jesus said:

*Matthew 19:29 KJV "And every one that hath forsaken ..., for my name's sake, shall receive an **hundredfold** and shall inherit everlasting life."*

*Matthew 6:19-20 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal;"*

Jesus doesn't reveal what treasure in heaven would look like or how it would be measured, but it will be highly valuable.

#### D. Our Job in Heaven

*Read Matthew 25:14-30*

*Luke 19:17 "have authority over ten cities"*

*Matthew 25:21 "I will make you ruler over many things"*

Serve faithfully here, including how you manage your money and possessions, and you will get to be in charge of many things there.

God gives us incentive after incentive to give. It will make you financially secure, healthier, and happier. It will increase your spiritual responsibility and authority, all right now. Then later we will be blessed by our welcome into heaven, our house in heaven, treasures in heaven, and our job in heaven.

**Prayer: What is your commitment to God based on hearing His Word today?**