

## STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship is a divine principle that emphasizes our acceptance of responsibility for the possessions entrusted to us by someone else. We are all called to be stewards in the kingdom of God. We are to subdue the creation and have dominion over it as representatives of the Creator (Genesis 1:28). In Genesis 2:15, God put man in the Garden of Eden:

Genesis 2:15

*“Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.”*

The word keep, here, is the Hebrew word *shamar*. It means to hedge around something to keep, to guard, to watch as a watchman, to protect. That is our responsibility – to keep what God has entrusted to us just as Adam was to keep the land.

In Luke 12:42, Jesus refers to a steward, in this case a manager.

Luke 12:42-43

*“And the Lord said, ‘Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.’”*

Notice, however, in the very next verse he calls him a slave – the point being that, although he may have been a manager, he was still a slave in relation to the master. We too are stewards of what God has given us – our time, gifts, possessions, money, etc. – yet we are slaves of Him who is the Lord and owner of all things:

Psalms 24:1

*“The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it.”*

Our time, talents and finances all belong to God. In fact, everything we have is from God; He has been generous to give us what we need and more. We must remember that all we have been “given” is really His and we will be answerable as to how we used it. It is incumbent upon us to use these things for the kingdom of God and the purposes that reflect favorably on Him (bring Him glory). Stewardship, therefore, is not just a responsibility or a principle; it is a way of life. Even our bodies are not our own:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

*“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”*