Week 1 - 8-21-24 EQUIP - Who’s the Owner?

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1 INTRODUCTION

APPLICATION

WELCOME

PRAY

INTRODUCE LESSON:

This series is called Healthy Stewardship.

What is Biblical Stewardship:

It's the responsible management and use of the gifts and resources that God has entrusted to us.

It means utilizing and managing all resources—both financial blessings and spiritual gifts—for the glory of God.

2

APPLICATION

Remember these key verses:

1 Peter 4:10: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

Genesis 1:28: Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 2:15: Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7: The Cheerful Giver - But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Colossians 3:23: And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

Luke 16:11: And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?

3

EXPLANATION

Healthy Stewardship

Session 1: Who’s the Owner?

It All Belongs to God

To experience the full blessing of God in our lives, it’s important to fully understand: “Who’s the owner?” ....

It can be a challenge to fully recognize God’s Lordship because we “work to get what we got."

Understanding stewardship matters because ownership matters.

Imagine going to your wallet, taking out $100, and buying blankets and shoes for an orphanage.

That’s generous…

Now imagine going into your neighbor’s house and taking $100 out of their wallet and buying blankets & shoes for an orphanage.

You weren’t generous, you were stealing.

Ownership really matters.

Determining who owns an object changes the perspective of how you interact with it.

4

EXPLANATION

We must start with this truth: It all belongs to God.

> The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness,
> The world and those who dwell therein.

Psalm 24:1 (NKJV)

This means everything! If you can name it, it belongs to Him.

The Principle of Ownership is the foundation of Biblical Stewardship!

5

EXPLANATION

It's vital that understanding the Biblical principles go from your head into your heart – It will impact your actions, your relationships, and your ability to multiply God's provisions.

Before I understood this principle, I saw everything as mine.

I earned it, I can do whatever I want with it.

But as God revealed this to me over and over in scripture, it changed the way I saw EVERYTHING.

After misunderstanding that it was all mine, I had to free myself from the grip of Pride in my life that was falsely driving me to believe it was all mine, mine, mine.

I was getting nowhere except deeper in debt. Why?

But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

James 4:6 (NKJV)

Resist - Greek - anti-tassō - to post in adverse array, as an army; to set oneself in opposition.

How did I break through? Healthy Stewardship -

Surrender - Greek - Hupo-tasso - Military term meaning "to arrange [troop divisions] in a military fashion under the command of a leader".

In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".

Now I recognize everything in my life was entrusted to me by the creator of the Universe.

6

EXPLANATION

Wait! What? God entrusted me?

YES!

Entrust means, “to put into the protection and care of another.”

He has entrusted you with relationships, talents and abilities.

And the way you treat those things, reflects your relationship with God.

The way you treat the gift reflects the way you feel about the gift giver.

I’m the steward! He’s the owner!

That should take a lot of pressure off of you. It did for me.

I think we sometimes care for other people’s things better than our own – Knowing all I had was God’s switched my heart from, “Well, it’s mine and I’ll do with it as I please – to – This belongs to God and I want to make sure it is cared for because He trusted me with it.”

And the way I steward what He has entrusted to me determines how much more He can entrust me to steward in the future!

This fundamental principle even changes our language.

When God can give THROUGH you, He will give TO you.

7

EXPLANATION

GOOD STEWARDSHIP allows you to be generous!

God owns it so why doesn't He give me more to manage?

Well, Jesus said that your ability to manage well will directly correlate to how much He will give you to manage. Think about that.

Jesus' parable of the talents:

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.'

Matthew 25:21 (NKJV)

This lesson of Ownership may be the key to God being able to entrust you with more.

Obedience is a key component of recognizing God's ownership.

God is a covenant God – blessing you with abundant provision is one way He establishes and maintains His promise.

"And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Deuteronomy 8:18 (NKJV)

God wants to bring fish into your net – BUT you must first prepare a net with which to receive those fish.

Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not broken.

John 21:11 (NKJV)

Are your nets ready?

8

APPLICATION

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

How does it make you feel to know you are the manager of someone else’s property?

Is this a new perspective for you?

What changes can you make right away?

9 CLOSING

APPLICATION

Prayer of Freedom Deliverance

“Heavenly Father, deliver us from the chains of unhealthy stewardship.

Grant us the wisdom to manage my resources well, and help us break free from any patterns that hinder our growth.

In Jesus’ name, we declare freedom from financial burdens and trust in Your provision. Amen.” 🙏

DECLARATION:

A Declaration for Stewardship

Dear Lord,

We declare that all we have is a gift from Your hand. Today, we declare our commitment to stewardship:

1. Time:
    - We dedicate our hours to purposeful pursuits. May each moment count—whether in prayer, service, or rest.
2. Talents:
    - Our abilities are not ours alone. We offer them back to You. Use them for Your glory, Lord.
3. Resources:
    - Our possessions, finances, and opportunities—we hold them loosely. May we use them wisely, generously, and with integrity.
4. Relationships:
    - People are Your greatest treasure. We commit to love, forgive, and invest in meaningful connections.
5. Creation:
    - The Earth is Your masterpiece. We pledge to care for it, treading lightly and preserving its beauty.

In Jesus' name, we declare this stewardship. Amen.