Let's Talk About: Stewardship

What is stewardship?

This is a term used in the Bible that you may not have really thought about before. The term stewardship means "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care."

While not discussed very often, stewardship is one of the essential elements of being a good Christian. Let's start by asking what kinds of things do you think that God has entrusted you with?

God has given you so much. James 1:17 tells us that every good and perfect gift comes from God. This means that all of the good things that you have are the result of the goodness of God. What He gave to you. What kinds of good gifts has God given to you?

What have you done to honor God with those gifts?

Read Proverbs 3:9-10 and 1 Peter 4:10. Now answer that previous question. What have you done to honor God with your gifts?

Jesus Explains Stewardship

While not directly using this word, Jesus often spoke in parables about stewardship. In fact, 16 parables addressed the idea of stewardship. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What does this parable teach about being responsible with the things that God has provided?

How is this message related to stewardship?

This parable addresses how some were able to take what was given to them and increase it while another did nothing with what he had been given. While the parable is specifically addressing money, it also provides a good moral lesson related to any gift from God. How do you think this might apply to one who is given wisdom from God?

Can you see how a person who kept the wisdom to himself or herself would be a bad steward, while one who shared so that others learned that same wisdom would be increasing his or her "talents?"

Read 1 Peter 4:10. What does God expect us to do with our gifts?

What are talents or gifts that God has given to you?

How are you using those gifts to be serve others?

The Gifts God Has Given You

When most of us think of gifts, we think of talents or abilities that God has given. However, what are other kinds of gifts that God has given to you?

The truth is that there are many. A wife, children, parents, friends, coworkers, and neighbors can all be gifts from God. In fact, Psalm 127:3 describes children as a heritage,

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a person who is carrying on the legacy of the parents. In this way, the child becomes an enormous gift because he or she continues to bear the family lineage.

A job is a gift. The amount of money or property you have is a gift. How does God expect you to be a good steward with those things?

How could you be a good steward with your job?

You may not consider your job to be an area where you could be a good steward, but that is not the case. Read Colossians 3:23. What is God's expectation related to our job?

How does this relate to stewardship?

Where are places at Hope CDA that you could be a good steward?

You may not have thought of this, but your brothers in the program are gifts to you. They are there to help you to be more successful. They are there so you can help them to be more successful. How can you be a good steward with them?

Your ability to lead is also a gift from God. Read Titus 1:7. How can you use your leadership talents to be a good steward for God?

God Calls Us to Stewardship

Keep in mind that God called mankind to stewardship from the very start. Read Genesis 1:28. How does God expect Adam to be a good steward over the earth?

God called Adam to populate the earth and to subdue it, to take dominion over it. Instead, he gave the world to Satan by disobeying God. God still expects mankind to follow these two mandates. This requires us to be good stewards of the earth and its people.

To accomplish this, we must think about how we can be good stewards in our communities. It starts with where you live. Your house, your room, your workplace, and your job sites are all areas where God wants you to be a good steward. What can you do in each of these places to be good stewards?

Your community is also a place where God expects you to be a good steward. What could you do to be a good steward in Cedar Rapids?

If you lived in another city before coming to Hope CDA, what could you do to be a good community member in the city where you came from prior to living in Cedar Rapids?

Being a good steward requires you to want to bless the things that God has provided. Why do you think that some don't act as good stewards?

What are the obstacles in your life that are stopping you from being a good steward?

Can you commit to taking a more active role in stewardship at Hope? What will you do to accomplish this?

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