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| **SERIES** | **Discipleship 101: 9 Week Challenge** |
| **BIBLE** | **Matthew 25:14-30 (Anchor text)** |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | **Stewardship: Given much to make much for the Master** |
| **OVERVIEW** | Salvation is a gift of God through faith in Jesus. Christ. We don’t earn it but humbly receive the rewards of Jesus life, death and resurrection. Then, as we unwrap the gift of salvation, we learn that following Jesus brings new responsibilities. Salvation makes us new creations, children of God, servants of all, and stewards of God’s wealth for God’s purposes. What a serious privilege to walk in all we’ve been given by Jesus, managing His wealth with His wisdom and learning to be fruitful for His glory. What kind of a steward are you? |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **God is the Master and Owner: Stewards are servants who live for His glory. (Matthew 25: 14)**  Disciples of Jesus must know their identity – we are servants, saved by the mercy and grace of God. Servants (which Greek word used here?) find their identity in doing the will of another. Servants do not own property, do not make name for themselves. They work for the profit and praise of the Master. Everything they use is the Masters. They spend their days managing the Masters wealth.  *Psalm 24:1 The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and al who live in it…*  *Also Psalm 89:11-12*  **The Master entrusts according to His wisdom: Stewards work to the best of their abilities. (Matthew 25: 14-18)**  The master entrusts His wealth with wisdom, giving according to His knowledge of the abilities of each servant. Every servant has been given exactly what God ordained - No complaining about too much or too little. Trust the Master and get to work.  **The Master will return to settle accounts: Stewards are to live ready for His return, daily doing His will with His resources. (Matthew 25:19)**  Theme of Matthew 24 and 25 – Be ready, stay ready, live ready for Jesus to return!  *Luke 12:37, 43 – “It will be good for those servants who master finds them watching/doing His will when he comes…*  *Commendation and reward for good and faithful stewardship. (20-23)*   * Eager reports of how their work with the Master’s resources bore fruit, grew in impact. * Words of affirmation (competence and character) – Well Done! You are good (pursuing the likeness of God) and faithful (trusting God and obediently living out that trust) * Reward – Because you were faithful with a few now you will be given leadership and responsibility over many things. * Invitation to deeper friendship – come share your Master’s happiness   *Condemnation and punishment for wicked and lazy stewardship. (24-30)*   * *Words of condemnation (wicked character and lazy performance)* * *Sinful fear based. He knew the character of God – that He expects fruit! – but retreated in defeat instead of working his best.* * *Punishment – As your behavior proves what’s in your heart… No trust in Master’s love or generosity. This servant must lose what little he has – it will be given to those who live by faith. Lose your place in the Masters household – thrown outside, into darkness, into suffering.* |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  This is a hard teaching about God’s expectation of fruitful living after receiving the gift of salvation. We are not saved by good works, but by grace and through faith in Jesus. But we are saved to do good works. Even though we may apply this to finances, the big issue and heart issue is our salvation and working that out by faithful and fruitful living. Are you bearing the fruit of salvation? If not, turn to Jesus today. |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  **BEGIN –** Have you trusted Jesus to be in His household as a servant?  **GROW** – Take one of these steps… details coming: Fill out resource worksheet (what all has God given me), budget template (spending plan), refer to Financial Peace 7 Steps to health, Evaluate calendar and time (how am I using what I’ve been given? Making it fruitful to bless others or burying it in myself) |