

Who is That Faithful and Wise Steward?
Luke 12:42-48

1538

Topic: Stewardship

Aim: To show that the Christian should be a faithful steward of all he possesses.

1. Have you ever fantasized about what it would be like to win or inherit, say 25 million dollars?
2. I have to admit that I have. I think of all the good that I could do with that amount of money. I have even gone so far as to think of who would receive a part of such a largess.
3. But I am quickly brought back to earth with the realization that such will probably never happen, and the truth of something I once heard: "God is not interested in what you would do with the millions you don't have, but He is interested in what you are doing with what you do have."
4. I want to think with you in this lesson about the principle of stewardship. Remember a steward is one entrusted with another's goods for safe keeping.
5. Let us do so by examining the words of Jesus in Luke 12:42-28.

I. First look at the passage in its context.

A. It goes back to Luke 12:13 and the question posed to Jesus by a man.

1. Note the emphasis in Jesus' answer, verse 15.
2. How easy to get caught up in the abundance of the things we possess, not the necessities of life.
3. Such leads to a false sense of security and contentment.
4. Thus the parable of the rich fool, Luke 12:16-21.

B. In contrast to the rich fool, one ought to have proper priorities in his life.

1. Which Jesus urges in Luke 12:22-34.
2. This would be easily seen in the life of the servant, a steward, who is ready and prepared when the Master comes to take account of his servants..

II. Three observations about faithful stewards.

A. A good steward, as opposed to the Rich Fool, sees beyond himself.

1. Were there no needy persons to help where the rich man lived? Were there no good deeds to be done for others?
2. As Jesus said in verse 23, life is more than food and clothing.
3. One of the things that enriches life is sharing God's bounty with others, Acts 20:35.

B. A good steward, as opposed to the Rich Fool, sees beyond this world.

1. Remember how James put it in James 4:13-17?
2. I read of the following conversation between a young ambitious fellow and an older wise man. "I will," said the young man, "get my education." "And then?" said the older man. "I will begin a business." Said the younger. Again the older man said simply, "And then?" "Then I will make my fortune." "And then?" "I will raise my family." "And then?" "Then I will grow old and retire rich and contented." Yet again came the inquiry, "And then?" "Well, I guess someday I will die!" And yet again came the inquiry from the wisdom of age, "And then?"
3. A good steward uses God's blessings to grow rich toward God, Luke 12:33-34.

C. The faithful steward is faithful, even in the absence of the Master.

1. He is always ready to give account of his stewardship to the master.
2. His life is not filled with fear of the master's coming, for he knows he has been that faithful and wise steward who has not waited until the last minute to prepare for the master's coming.
3. Luke 12:40, 42-43.

III. God has so richly blessed us.

A. in every way.

1. Materially.
2. In giving this beautiful world to live.
3. Spiritually.
4. How are we using God's good gifts?
5. Are we not called upon to be stewards of all of His manifold blessings?

B. One last verse for your consideration, in the context of another parable about stewardship, Jesus said: "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. 11 Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?" Luke 16:10-12.

1. As we think this morning about the budget for the year 2005 and our obligatory privilege toward it, let us remind ourselves of the principle of stewardship.
2. "Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes." Luke 12:42-44.

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