

SIGNS OF A SENSIBLE STEWARD

Joseph Carty / General

Stewardship is Lordship / Stewardship; Consecration / Luke 12:40

- In [Luke 12](#),
 - Jesus teaches us
 - 4 teachings on:
 - **sensible stewardship**
- This past month
 - we have been talking
 - about Lordship.

Position Issue

- Let's review:
- Last 2 weeks

- Lordship settles
 - the POSITION issue
 - Who is going to be # 1?

Permission Issue

- Lordship settles the
 - PERMISSION issue
- Who has a right to me and my life?

Profession Issue

- Lordship settles
 - PROFESSION issue
- Who will enter the kingdom of heaven?
 - (“not everyone who says “Lord, Lord, but those who do the will of my Father.”)

Possession Issue

- Finally
- Lordship settles
 - POSSESSION issue
 - Who owns the things in my life?
- [Luke 12](#) illustrates
 - the principles of stewardship.
- Stewardship is
 - non-issue if you
 - settle Lordship.
- If not,
 - biggest battle of Christianity!
- If you missed
 - last 3 sermons
 - watch on YouTube
- In [Luke 12](#),

- Jesus teaches
- 4 different signs
- “sensible stewardship”

1. RESPONSIBLE

[Luke 12:16-21](#) (ESV)

And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself,

--

‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul,

--

“Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you,

--

and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

- To begin teaching stewardship,
 - our Lord gives us first
 - a picture of a man
 - who was very irresponsible.
- This farmer.
 - Jesus says 3 things
 - about this man's
 - irresponsibility.

(1). He was irresponsible to **Himself**.

(2). He was irresponsible to **others**.

(3). He was irresponsible to **God**

...

(1). He was irresponsible to Himself.

- He thought that

- He could make a life
 - of the things that he had.
- The farmer was
 - irresponsible concerning himself.
- He thought he could
 - live off the things of life.
- Many Christians today
 - primarily focused on
 - careers
 - retirement
 - college
 - promotions
- We have to work
 - pursue wage.
- This man,

- all consuming thoughts
- provide for himself.
- store up

Pastor John Maxwell has said:

‘When you store, You get no more.’‘

- He was irresponsible
 - because acted like
 - he would live forever
 - only need to focus
 - managing finances.

- › What about you?
- › Has thoughts of your
 - › financial condition
 - › controlled your thoughts?

(2). He was irresponsible to others.

He didn't think

how to help others.

- Thought his possessions
 - were for himself.

[Proverbs 22:9](#) (ESV)

Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed,
for he shares his bread with the poor.

- Farmer thought
 - only of self.
- Forgot that
 - God gives wealth,
 - to bless others.

D.L. Moody said that he was walking down the street one day and somebody

gave him \$5.00. He said, “brother Moody, you are such a great blessing to me.” So Moody thanked him. And then Moody said, I hadn’t walked a block until I found somebody with a great need. So I reached into my pocket and passed that \$5.00 on to them. I felt so good. I hadn’t walked another block until somebody came up to me and said, “Mr. Moody you are such a blessing to me,” and gave me another \$5.00. He said, I thanked him, and put it in my pocket. I didn’t pass that \$5.00 on. And Moody said, “I never had anybody come and do it again.”

(3). He was irresponsible to God

- He did not realize
 - the uncertainty of life.
 - certainty of the judgment.
 - certainty of accountability.
- He thought things
 - would continue as normal.

Luke 12:20 ESV

But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’

- No plan for

- next life.
- Invested only
- current life.

› If you died today...

› Where are you investments?

Luke 12:21 ESV

So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

- What does it mean,
 - to be not rich toward God?
 - Let me illustrate

A wealthy man had a dream. And in this dream he died. When he went to heaven, an angel gave him a guided tour. The angel showed him this magnificent mansion. The man asked, well, whose is this?” And the angel said, ‘that is your gardener’s place.’” And that man said, Oh, this is great! If the gardener gets this one, I can hardly wait to see mine! He was getting excited. They went a little further and saw an even more magnificent mansion. He asked, “whose is this?” And the angel said, “well it is a missionary who was in the field for 30 years. Serving God, and this is where he stays. “Oh, this guy, he can hardly wait. He was so excited. And then they came up to an 8’ X 8’ shack. And this guy says, “whose is this?” And

the angel says, “This is yours.” Now this was a shack. No window. A little opening for a door with a cloth hanging across it. And the guy says, “wait a minute, wait a minute. My gardener gets a mansion. The missionary gets a mansion. What happened to me? And the angel says, “To be honest with you, we did the best we could with what you sent us!”“

- To be rich toward God,
 - means to
 - eternal issues.
 - time
 - energy
 - prayer
 - effort
 - money

“The cup most difficult to carry is not the cup that is empty, but the cup that is full to the brim. ... Affliction and adversity bring disappointment and sorrow; but it is prosperity that is most dangerous to spiritual life.” — Ministry of Healing p. 211

“Often prayer is solicited for those who are suffering from illness or adversity; but our prayers are most needed for the men entrusted with prosperity and

influence.” — Ministry of Healing p. 212

- Most Americans
 - cups very full.
 - Compared to
 - world population.
- First Principle

RESPONSIBLE

- Second Principle:

RELAXED

Luke 12:22 ESV

And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on.

- Enemy of Stewardship:
 - **Worry**

- Everyone is tempted to worry
 - Rich worry
 - how to manage things
 - (investments)
 - (business decisions)
 - Poor worry
 - how to get things
 - (food, clothes, housing)
 - (better financial condition)

Luke 12:23 ESV

For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.

- Look what Jesus says in vs. 24

[Luke 12:24–28](#) (ESV)

Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the

birds!

--

And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you,

--

even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!

- Worry will give you
 - a false view of God.

- That God can't
 - take care of your needs.

- He takes care of
 - the lilies,
 - the grass,
 - the ravens,

- but not me....

- Worry Worry
 - Lilies are beautiful - not me
 - Where will I live?
 - Will groceries hold out?
 - How about my retirement?
 - **If I pledge to God,**
 - **will I have enough?**

- Foolishness...
 - We think about pie...
 - Only XX pieces
 - not God's math!

- Worry is sinful
 - because it causes us

- to seek - wrong things.

Luke 12:29–31 ESV

And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

I like Matthew's version:

[Matthew 6:33](#) (ESV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- Seek First
 - put first...

Elijah and Widow eating last cake

1 Kings 17:13 ESV

And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son.

God's solution to worry!!!

Put God first...

claim His promise

He will provide!

- He may not provide
 - the way you expect
 - timing you expect
 - amount you expect
 - But He Will Provide!!!

Then jump down to vs. 34

Luke 12:34 ESV

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

- Heart of the issue
 - This is why
 - God cares about money.

- Shows where heart is.

- › Where is your heart today?

- › Where is your money?

- › Where is your time?

- › Where is your energy?

- › God's work?

- › Selfish plans?

- A sensible steward is

- responsible,

- relaxed.

- Why?

- Because God is in control.

- Next principle:

- Steward is:

READY

3. A sensible steward will be ready.

- Now in vs. 35-40
 - Jesus shifts the emphasis
 - from being worried
 - about the present
 - to be watchful
 - about the future.

[Luke 12:35-40](#) (ESV)

“Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks.

--

Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake,

--

blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to

be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

- Living a life
 - readiness
 - urgency

The fact is, the moment financial stability is assured, spiritual bankruptcy is also assured. — Mahatma Gandhi

- Why?
 - because we can only
 - serve one master.

Table Installation

Do you believe

Jesus is coming

important for believers?

- All Bible writers talk about

- nearness of
 - Jesus return...

 - What would have
 - happened to them
 - they realized
 - 2000 later
 - Jesus not returned.
-
- Without life of urgency
 - never done mission work
 - “every creature heard gospel.
-
- How?
 - filled with spirit
 - life of urgency!
 - They were ready!

› How Ready Are You?

- › Is your life
- › a life of urgency?

There was a man named Stephen Grellet. "I shall pass through this world but once, and any good that I can do, or any kindness that I can show any human being, let me do it now and not defer it. For, I shall not pass this way again."

- We only have
 - 1 life to live.
- Slang phrase
 - young people
 - YOLO!

You Only Live Once

- Interesting,
 - Satan used this
 - Do everything you want.

- Saying is true
 - but,
 - if you only live once...
 - ought to consider
 - results of this life!!!

The wealthy man is not he who has the most money, but he who needs the least to live well and is happy with what he has and does. — Author Unknown

YOLO

- You Only Live Once
- Live like
 - it matters
 - what comes next!
- Summary
 - Sensible Steward.

- Responsible
 - Relaxed
 - Ready
- Finally:

REWARDED

- The sensible steward
 - will be rewarded.

Luke 12:41 ESV

Peter said, “Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?”

- You are talking
 - about others
 - right???
- Typical human,
 - great sermon
 - my sister really needs

- to hear this one!
- Brother and Sisters
 - Today, words of Jesus
 - **Are For You!!!**

- Next verse:

[Luke 12:42-44](#) (ESV)

And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?

--

Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

- He says,
 - Once I find
 - a man or a woman
 - who lets Me be
 - owner of everything.

- I'll give them
 - everything I've got.

- I can hardly wait
 - to pour my blessings
 - true steward.

- › Ironical
 - › if we try
 - › to focus on getting
 - › everything in this world
 - › we lose everything.

But if

we try to let go

for Christ sake

He gives us everything!

Surrender

It's worth it!

Final famous words:

Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be my disciple. —
Jesus Christ

Appeal