

Stewards by God's Design: The Three R's of the Christian Steward

Relationships – Responsibilities - Resources



Luke 19:11-26

God entrusts His stewards with the truth of the Gospel. We are privileged and responsible to steward it faithfully and wisely.

R. C. Rein writes in *Adventures in Christian Stewardship*:
“...stewardship of the Gospel involves especially three obligations. The first is that we guard this treasure which has been entrusted to us as Christian stewards; the second is that, as Christian stewards, we share this treasure with others so that God’s purpose may be accomplished in them as well as in us; and the third is that we reflect the truths of the Gospel in our lives...This is our most sacred trust as Christian stewards. It is an obligation that rests upon us as individuals, as a congregation, and as a church body.” Pages 68-72



The Resource of Truth

We live in a time when truth seems to be illusive. We don’t know who to trust to tell us the truth. Some say that there is no absolute truth—that everything is relative. Truth is a precious commodity. Henry David Thoreau said, “Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth.”

Of course, this is nothing new. Scripture tells us that when Jesus was brought before Pilate he asked, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered him, “I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate’s response to Jesus was “What is truth?” (John 18:37-38) Pilate asked an important question, one that deserves an answer.

What do we learn about truth from the following Scripture passages?

1. John 8:44
2. 1 John 1:8
3. John 17:17
4. John 14:6
5. Psalm 25:5

Read Luke 19:11-26. Stewards have three obligations regarding their stewardship of the Gospel.

1. Guarding the Gospel

- What responsibility did the nobleman give to his servants?
- What does it mean to guard the Gospel? Jude 3
- Why is it important to guard the Gospel? Jude 4

2. Sharing the Gospel

- What did the nobleman want his servants to do with the talents?
- What does God want us to do with the treasure of the Gospel? Mark 5:19-20
- Why is it so important to tell this Good News to others? 1 Timothy 2:4
- How are we to share the Gospel?
 - We are to be personal missionaries to others. Acts 4:20
 - We are to fulfill our obligations through the congregation of which we are a member. Acts 5:42
 - We have the responsibility to share the Gospel through the mission work of our larger church body. Acts 13:47

3. Reflecting the Truth of the Gospel in Our Lives

- Matthew 5:13-16
- Galatians 5:22,23
- 1 Peter 2:9, 11, 12

How we, as stewards by God’s design, manage the resources He entrusts to our care is important. What do Romans 14:12 and 2 Timothy 2:15 tell us?