



**The Parable of the Wise Servant
Stewardship Parables (Part-1)
Sunday Sermon, July 05, 2026**

We begin a four-part sermon series “Stewardship Parables” where we look at four parables or illustrations that the Lord Jesus presented to teach us about stewardship.

The first parable / illustration we look at is the parable of the wise servant. The Lord Jesus had just instructed His disciples about being ready for His return (Luke 12:35-40) and then moves into speaking about being good stewards until He returns.

Luke 12:41-48

41 Then Peter said to Him, "Lord, do You speak this parable only to us, or to all people?"

42 And the Lord said, "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?**

43 Blessed is that servant whom **his master will find so doing when he comes.**

44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him **ruler over all that he has.**

45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,

46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and **did not prepare himself or **do according to his will**, shall be beaten with many stripes.**

48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

STEWARD

Steward (Greek oikonomos) = the manager of a household or estate, governor, treasurer

This word comes from two root words, ‘oikos’ = house, ‘nomos’ = a law.

Stewardship (Greek oikonomia) = the management of a household, administration

A steward is a manager, overseer or caretaker.



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- Someone who has been put in charge of another person's goods.
- Someone made responsible for something that is not their own.
- Someone entrusted with the responsibility to manage.

In the Kingdom, each one of us is a steward. God entrusts each one of us, something that belongs to Him, which He has called us to manage, administer and steward for Him here on earth. This is part of our calling as sons and daughters and being part of the Kingdom of God.

A steward as we understand from Biblical context, comes with these five responsibilities:

1. things are functioning properly. There must be good organization, order, discipline.
2. things are profitable. There must be increase, growth and multiplication.
3. everything is accounted for. There must be accounting and accountability.
4. must protect and safeguard what is in his care. Things must be protected.
5. must ensure continuity, that is, train up a successor. Things must be passed on for future generations.

STEWARDSHIP COMES WITH AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

42 And the Lord said, "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?"

vs 42: ruler over his household – this speaks to us of delegated authority that has been given to the steward in the realm into which they were appointed.

vs 42: give people their portion in due season – but this authority comes with the responsibility of (a)giving people their portion and (b)in due season. The responsibility is twofold. It is to do the right things for people you oversee, and to do it at the right time for them. Provide for the people. Care for the people. Protect the people. Lead the people. Do the right things at the right time for the people God has given to you.

THREE KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD STEWARDSHIP

Faithful. Wise. Committed.

42 And the Lord said, "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?"

43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes



vs 42: faithful

Greek word means trustworthy, faithful. It is used of persons who show themselves faithful in the transaction of business, the execution of commands, or the discharge of official duties. Someone worthy of trust and who can be relied on.

vs 42: wise

Greek word means intelligent, practically wise, prudent, thoughtful, mindful. Discreet. Having practical skill and acumen. Sensible. Shrewd.

vs 43: committed (“will find so doing”)

vs 43

(Easy-to-read-Version) **When the master comes and finds him doing the work he gave him, it will be a day of blessing for that servant!**

(The Passion Translation) (43-44) **And when the master returns, he will find that his servant has served him well. I can promise you, he will be given a great reward and will be placed as an overseer of everything the master owns.**

REWARD FOR GOOD STEWARDSHIP

ruler over his household (vs 42) ... ruler over all that he has (vs 44)

God rewards good stewardship with stewardship over more of what He has. He entrusts us with more.

We see growth and increase in the realm of authority and responsibility given as a reward for good stewardship.

THREE WRONG ATTITUDES IN STEWARDSHIP

45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,

A, Complacency and indifference: My master is delaying his coming. So there is a “I don't care attitude”. Let things remain as they are. Keeping things at status quo or just letting things deteriorate.



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B, Abuse: beat (ill-treat) other servants: Abusing the delegated authority resulting in others being hurt and ill-treated.

C, Self-Indulgence: eat, drink and be drunk: becoming self-serving, promoting self, etc.

The consequence of poor stewardship is serious: cut in two, sent out to the unbelievers, beaten with many stripes. Whatever these images are intended to convey we know that we do not want to receive this consequence.

GOOD STEWARDSHIP IS TO KNOW, PREPARE AND DO THE MASTER'S WILL

vs 47:

47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

Know the Master's will – get to know what pleases the Master. What is God entrusting you with. Do look at what God has entrusted to someone else and want that.

Prepare yourself – get ready to do it. Equip, train, learn, develop skill, discipline, etc. God will not make us stewards of things that are just 'easy and convenient' for us to do. He will entrust us with stewardship of things that we have to prepare ourselves for. Learn the skills you need to handle things God entrust you with. Often, stewardship is tough. It will stretch us. It will cause us to do things we never imagined or feel completely unprepared for.

Do according to His will – then act and do it. Stay the course. Get the job done.

KINGDOM LAW OF STEWARDSHIP

To Whom Much is Given, Much Will Be Required

48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.

To Whom Much is Given, Much Will Be Required. God will expect more of us and hold us to higher standards.

The more God entrusts to us, the higher level of stewardship we must walk in.



We must carry out these functions of stewardship at a higher level of diligence, discipline and excellence:

- things are functioning properly. There must be good organization, order, discipline.
- things are profitable. There must be increase, growth and multiplication.
- everything is accounted for. There must be accounting and accountability.
- must protect and safeguard what is in his care. Things must be protected.
- must ensure continuity, that is, train up a successor. Things must be passed on for future generations.

KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP

All of us are stewards in God's Kingdom.

A, Stewards of the gifts of God

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

God has entrusted each of us with gifts and we must be good stewards of what He has entrusted us with and designed us to become.

B, Stewards of the grace of God

Ephesians 3:1-2

1 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

2 if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

God has entrusted each of us with grace for the assignments He has in store for us.

C, Stewards of the mysteries of God

1 Corinthians 4:1,2

1 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

We are all stewards of God's Word and truth, God's revelation and anointing given to us. We must hold these spiritual treasures with great regard, protect them, amplify them, and we must pass this on to generations to come.



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SUMMARY

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 1.5 to 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

Life Group Leader: To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon or review the Sunday Sermon notes. Please do not make your life group read through the complete sermon notes during the life group. All you need to do is have individuals read the Scriptures listed below and then open for a time of discussion, sharing and learning using the questions given below. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Luke 12:41-48*



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INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Life Group is a discussion-based, participatory meeting with everyone given the opportunity to share their learning. Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, What is the Biblical understanding of stewardship? What are the five responsibilities of stewardship?

2, Discuss the three characteristics of good stewardship: faithful, wise, committed, and practical ways we live this out in our daily life.

3, Discuss the three wrong attitudes in stewardship: complacency, abuse and self-indulgence. How can we ensure we do not fall into these?

4, Good stewardship is to know, prepare and do the Master's will. Discuss how we live this out.

5, We are stewards of the gifts, grace and mysteries (revelation) God has given to each of us. Discuss practical ways we can fulfill our calling as stewards of what God has entrusted to us in gifts, grace and His mysteries now revealed to us.

Each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key insights and how they see themselves applying it to their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow, bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened



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2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for all details to go well as we plan and build our Bible college and church facilities to serve the Lord and people.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

BELIEVERS BIBLE COMMENTARY: <https://believersbiblecommentary.com>

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon series on Stewardship Parables, that the Lord Jesus taught we examine the parable of the wise servant. We gain a Biblical understanding of stewardship and the five responsibilities of stewardship. We discuss the three characteristics of good stewardship - being faithful, wise, committed. We also uncover the three wrong attitudes in stewardship: complacency, abuse and self-indulgence. We learn that good stewardship is to know, prepare and do the Master's will. All of us are stewards of the gifts, grace and mysteries (revelation) God has given to each of us. Each of us must fulfill our calling as stewards of what God has entrusted to us in gifts, grace and His mysteries



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now revealed to us. This sermon includes free audio (mp3) and video of this powerful, motivational, expository teaching, free printable PDF sermon outlines, sermon notes and small group study guide with discussion questions and presentation slides. All resources (sermon PDF, sermon MP3, sermon video, sermon presentation) are free for use in personal study, small groups, Bible study prayer groups, local churches, conferences, Bible colleges, etc.

KEYWORDS

christian stewardship, stewardship parables, parables of Jesus, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

Word Studies in the New Testament. Marvin R. Vincent, D.D. (1886).

Free Bible software and AI tools are also used as Bible study aids, from time to time.