**A red cross with black text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Daily Devotions**

**Everyday Stewards**

**Week 3: Stewards Living with Purpose**

**Sunday**

**God Owns. We Manage.**

As the legal owners of so many things, it is sometimes difficult for us to acknowledge that God is the real and ultimate owner of everything. He is the owner; we are merely managers or caretakers of God’s property. King David wrote, *“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein”* (Psalm 24:1). God is the landlord. We are tenants. We possess, we occupy, we use, we manage—but we do not own.

Scripture tells us, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1). Out of nothing, God created life. The world and all who live in it are gifts from God. He gives us the ability to produce wealth in order that we may sustain our lives (Deuteronomy 8:18). He gives us strength, wisdom, knowledge, and eternal life through His only Son.

God made man to “*have dominion over…all the earth…”* (Genesis 1:26). God puts us in charge of His kingdom, making us, His stewards, responsible for all the gifts He has entrusted to us.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, grant me wisdom so I can be a faithful steward of Your creation. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.

**Monday**

**We Are Accountable.**

From the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), we learn that our financial lives are important to God and that He wants us to multiply the gifts He entrusts to us. In the parable, a Master (Jesus) entrusted three servants with different amounts of talents before going on a journey. After he returned, he asked each to give an account of what he had done with what he had been given. The master commended the two servants who faithfully and wisely invested the talents given to them. Because they were faithful in their efforts to please and serve him, the master told each of them, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!”* (verse 23).

Just as Jesus held the servants in the parable accountable, He holds us accountable for what He entrusts to us. This parable leads us to the conclusion that wise management of our money, along with all our gifts, pleases the Lord, and poor management displeases Him. When He comes again, *“… then each of us will give an account of himself to God”* (Romans 14:12). We will want to hear, *“Well done, good and faithful servant!”*

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, as I manage and invest the money that You have entrusted to me, grant me Your wisdom to make it grow so that I will have more to use in Your service. Amen.

**Tuesday**

**Go and Bear Fruit**

Just as branches of plants remain alive and bear fruit when connected to the vine, our stewardship exists because we are connected to Jesus. When we are connected to Jesus through spending time in His Word and participating in the Sacraments, we will be fruitful. When we abide in Jesus, we minister to the needs of others as Jesus, the Vine, did during His life on earth.

We cannot be fruitful stewards apart from Christ. Like the apple, which stays red and juicy for a long time after being picked, appears to be as healthy as when it hung on the tree, we, too, may look and act healthy, but, apart from a true connection with Christ, we will wrinkle up and rot as surely as an apple in a bowl on a table. Some of us may try to maintain an outward connection with Him by attending church once in a while, but, even if we are regular in our church attendance and are actively involved in the work and mission of the church, without faith linking us with the Person of Christ, our busyness is fruitless. *“Apart from Me,”* Christ said, *“you can do nothing”* (John 15:5), nor are our works even acceptable to God without faith in Him (Hebrews 11:6; Isaiah 64:6).

**Prayer:** Lord, help me to bear much fruit in Your name. Amen.

**Wednesday**

**Witnesses for Jesus**

God wants us to be devoted to telling others about His precious Son, Jesus, Who suffered, died, and rose again so that we could have eternal life with Him. We are called to be Christ’s ambassadors. The Great Commission that Jesus gave to His disciples is our commission as well.

God *“desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:4), and He gives us, His stewards, the privilege and responsibility to share that truth, the Gospel, with all people. He uses us as His hands, feet, and mouth. We are His instruments through which others hear and learn about Jesus and His love, grace, and mercy. By word and actions, we are to acquaint those around us with the wonders of God’s love and redeeming power of His Son’s death upon the Cross. Through our prayers and financial support, we help to spread God’s Word to all parts of the world.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, place within me confidence and boldness to proclaim the Good News to those around me. Amen.

**Thursday**

**Devoted to God**

Jesus said that we will either serve and love the Lord or the things of this world. We cannot live with the disclaimer that says, “Lord, I’ll serve you spiritually, but not with my money,” for with such a statement, we are making a choice not to serve and love God, but money. Loving money is not dependent upon how much money we have. We can have a lot of money and not love it, or we can have little and love it to death. We determine whether we will use money in a proper and God-pleasing way or for improper desires and things.

The love of money is one of the more subtle problems. An addiction to drinking or smoking is obvious, whereas the love of money may not be as apparent. We may foolishly think money and possessions can give us the happiness and security we seek. When money is overly important, we lose sight of what we need most (a Savior) and the lasting joy and contentment Jesus brings. True joy and security can be found only in the Lord. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we can put money in its right perspective.

**Prayer:** Lord, grant me freedom from the bondage and power money and possessions can exert over my life. In Jesus’ precious name I pray. Amen.

**Friday**

**Under New Management**

In Christ, we are new creations. What does that mean? In Christ, we discover the meaning of life, and we no longer need to search for something to fill and satisfy the emptiness of our hearts. It means that we are now “under new management.” We live under new rules. Rather than obeying the dictates of the world, the devil, and the flesh, we live under God’s authority. We have a new perspective and live for new purposes. Our thoughts and the desires of our hearts take on new direction. We begin to live in the light of eternity. Turning away from a life of rebellion against God, we now desire to know Him and to please Him. Our new purpose in life is to glorify and enjoy God.

With this new direction and purpose, we continue to grow each day. Because we are not perfect, we have a lot of growing and maturing to do. There is a race to be run and a crown to be won. We strive to live each day as stewards pleasing God as we become more like Him.

**Prayer:** Lord, thank You for making me a new person. Help me to seek You rather than the pleasures of this world. Amen.

**Saturday**

**Controlling Our Time**

Today is an important day to make our lives meaningful. Yesterday is history and tomorrow may never come. At some point in life, we start asking, “Where did the months and the years go?” Time is an irreplaceable commodity that God grants us, a precious period of opportunity for fulfilling the purposes for which we exist. Living each day as stewards, we realize the importance of time and use it properly. Wise use of time starts by living a life for Christ. If our time, energy, and focus are only on material wealth or other worldly successes, our time has been wasted.

While we must spend time providing for our needs, our life’s purpose must be to do the Lord’s work. We were born to serve our Creator. Jesus, Who *“did not come to be served, but to serve”* (Matthew 20:28), is our model. We are called to bring people to Christ and serve others based on gifts given to us by God. Ignoring God’s plan for our lives will result in anguish and despair.

As God’s stewards, we are called to be good managers of God’s gifts, especially time, since it is irreplaceable. God, Who has given us time, will also guide us in using it wisely.

**Prayer:** Lord, forgive my sin of procrastination. Amen.