

## Generous

### How to Drop the Heavy Burden of Ownership

#### Illustration or story on ownership vs stewardship

##### Matthew 25:14-30

<sup>14</sup> “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup> So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup> But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup> “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>22</sup> “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup> “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>24</sup> “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

<sup>26</sup> “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup> “‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup> For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**What can we learn from this parable?**

**What is Jesus trying to teach us?**

## I. God owns it all

### A. Refer to the parable

1. In the parable the “master” is God.
2. In the parable the “servants” are us.
3. The bags of gold represent all of the “resources” God has trusted us with.
  - a. It includes money but that is not everything it includes.
  - b. It includes all of our abilities, time, opportunities, intellect, body, physical capabilities, mental and physical health, talents, spiritual gifts, opportunities, etc....
  - c. Everything that you have falls under this category of “Bags of Gold”
  - d. When we read it we can see Jesus talking to us.

### Illustration

- I have given all this to you.
- What will you do with what I have given you.
- Will you multiply it or will you hoard it.
- Will you operate in faith and reproduce what I have given you.
- Or will you operate in fear and hide and hoard what I have trusted you with.

### B. He is the one who distributes the bags of gold

1. He distributes because he owns it all.
2. It is HIS to give as he sees fit.
3. He has the privilege of distribution because he owns it all.
4. I am not entitled to what someone else has.
5. I should not be jealous of someone else’s gifts.
6. I can rest in knowing that God is the one who distributes.
7. I am created unique – there is not another one like me – that is by design.

### C. Not everybody got the same thing.

1. **5 – 2 – 1.**
2. He can give as much or as little as he wishes because he owns it all.

### Application

- I am not responsible for what someone else has.
  - I am responsible for what I have.
1. If you get 5 bags of gold you are expected to manage -5 bags of gold.
  2. If you get 2 bags of gold you are expected to manage -2 bags of gold.
  3. If you get 1 bag of gold you are expected to manage -1 bag of gold.

**Psalm 24:1**

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it

**Question**

- Who owns the world?
- Who owns everything in it?
- Who owns all who live in the world?

**Friend who is a nephrologist – Kidney Dr.**

- In the southeast United States I have great job security.
- There are so many people who do not take care of their health.
- They have very bad habits that make them unhealthy.
- That is why I have great job security.

**My oldest uncle on my Dad's side was a mechanic for a living.**

- He LOVED cars and everything motors.
- He once built the motor for a race car that sat the pole at the **Talladega 500.**
- He eventually built a very successful business in south Florida
- He specialized in building and rebuilding motors.
- When I was younger and learning how to drive he once told me

***"If everyone changed their oil like they should I would go out of business."***

***Everything happens for a reason.***

***Sometimes that reason is because we make stupid decisions.***

D. God owns it all and God expects a return on his investment.

- God expects me to faithfully manage what he has trusted me with.

**Illustration**

- If we believe that God owns it all then this changes everything.
- It relieves the burden of feeling like we are the owners.

**Illustration**

- I grew up in a family where my Dad was self-employed the whole time we grew up.
- When you are the owner, you carry the weight of the business.
- You don't get the **privilege of clocking out** and **not feeling a sense of responsibility.**
- But If I only work there and I don't have any ownership then I am free to **clock out, go out the door** and **not worry about anything.**

- I am relieved from the weight of ownership.

### Application

1. When I realize I actually don't own anything – but God owns it all...
    - a. I am free from having to worry.
    - b. I don't have to worry about things because they are not mine.
    - c. I don't have to carry around this weight of ownership because it is God who owns it.
    - d. You weren't designed to carry that kind of weight.
    - e. You were created to be a steward of God's possessions.
  2. When I realize I actually don't own anything – but God owns it all...
    - a. I am accountable to God for what he has given me.
    - b. He requires a return on his investment.
- **The Burden of Ownership:**
    - Clinging to possessions and seeking control can lead to anxiety, stress, and a lack of peace.
    - It can also hinder our ability to serve others and follow God's will.
  - **The Invitation to Release:**
    - God invites us to cast our burdens on Him
    - To release our anxieties and trust in His care.
    - He promises to sustain us and provide for our needs.
  - **The Promise of Freedom:**
    - By releasing our burdens of ownership, we find freedom and peace.
    - We can live with a lighter heart and a more joyful spirit, knowing that God is in control.

### Matthew 6:25-27

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are you not much more valuable than they?

<sup>27</sup> Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

## **II. God determines what it's for**

### 1 Chronicles 29:11-12a,14b

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

A. Unpack

1. God owns it all – “everything in heaven and earth is yours”
2. God is head over all of creation.
3. Wealth comes from God.

B. There are those who claim that the economic outcome should be the same for everyone.

1. If this does not take place, then there is an obvious injustice.
2. Since there is an obvious injustice, they are going to set things right.
3. They will take from those who have more and give to those who have less.
4. The effect of this on a culture is that it creates a **sense of entitlement**.
5. I deserve what you have.
6. Since you have it and I don't then someone should give it to me.
7. It doesn't matter that you worked for 20 years week after week, month after month, long long hours, saving, sacrificing, getting up early and going to bed late.
8. None of that matters...

**What matters is you have more than me therefore I am entitled to what you have.**

That is an immoral thought

That is not a biblical thought

That is a sinful thought

That is a wicked thought

C. There are some who claim that if you have money that is an indication you have been unjust in how you acquired it.

The standard is usually that you have more than they do...

1. Certainly, there are those who have acquired money unjustly and illegally.
2. But what does the Bible say??? **Wealth comes from GOD.**

- Money is **NOT** evil
- Money is **NOT** the root of evil
- The **love of money** is the root of evil

## I Timothy 6

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Wealth comes from God.

## Illustration

- About 15 years ago Zack was given \$10 to go to his school and do some Christmas shopping for his family
- Clay Elementary had a Christmas shop set up.
- He got off the bus trotting along to the front door with a blue scarf wrapped around his neck.
- Jami – Hey bud how’d it go today with your Christmas shopping?
- Great – I got some really good deals...
- I got Luke a big pencil that says **#1 Brother**.
- I got Maci a little figure – horses - to go on her shelf.
- I got Dad a big pencil that says **#1 Dad**
- I got you a fancy shinny rock shaped like a heart.

**Jami** – Did you have any leftover money?

**Zack** – No - I got such good deals I used the leftover money to get myself this really cool scarf.

## When we give to God it’s like that

### 1 Chronicles 29:14

“Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.”

D. Since God owns it all and God determines what it should be used for.

1. God has the right to determine the **intended function** of what he has given me.
2. God has the right to determine the **purpose** of what he has given me.

## The earth, everything in the earth and all of humanity are created for the glorification of God.

- Isaiah 43:7, Psalm 19:1

E. When I realize God owns it all and that he determines what the purpose of my possessions are it actually liberates me.

1. If frees me.
2. I don't have to wonder what the purpose of my money is.
3. He has determined what that is and my job is to find out what that purpose is.
4. I can drop the heavy weight of ownership by using my money, time, body, talents, etc... for the glory of God.

**I am free from worry, and strife, and money anxiety.**

F. My job is to use my talents to worship God and glorify his great name!

**III. I am a steward of God's property.**

**1 Peter 4:10**

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

**Steward**

The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

- A. God expects us to carefully manage what he has trusted us with.
- B. God expects us to responsibly manage what he has trusted us with.

**Question**

What has he trusted you with?

1. Your body
2. Your mind
3. Your talents
4. Your money

- Release resources into your church to accomplish your agenda.
- Pour out blessings on all those who obey you with the tithe.
- Teach us how to give joyfully
- Release the gift of giving into your people

**Illustration**

- Back to the parable of the bags of gold

The guy who had 5 made more  
The guy who had 2 made more  
The guy who had 1 made none

He was called wicked and lazy

When we consume all we have upon ourselves we are the wicked and lazy servant