

Introduction: The Little “Green Bug”

What I learned...

- You can give but not be _____.
- Giving is an _____; generosity is a matter of the heart.
 - I was self-righteous.
 - I was proud.
 - I was “works” oriented.
 - I felt superior.
 - I was rigorously religious, but relationally challenged.
- Stewardship is not an _____ to fulfill, but an _____ to seize.



Bright Idea

Stewardship is the path. Generosity is the adventure.

The genius behind the in-depth relationship I enjoyed with John Saville is

Breakthrough Concept #2

God owns everything. I am His money manager.

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

Psalm 24:1

- *"The silver is Mine and the gold is Mine," declares the Lord Almighty.*

Haggai 2:8

- *Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth.*

Deuteronomy 8:18

- *You are not your own; you are bought with a price.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Summary: The "Oikonomia" Principle

All that we are, and all that we have belongs to God and has been temporarily entrusted to us to manage according to His wishes.

¹Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy."

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

The real issue is not “stuff” but _____. Can God trust you?

The Setting:

Correction of the Pharisees and instruction of His disciples concerning wealth.

The Story:

Luke 16:1-11

- Mismanagement occurs and dismissal soon follows.
- Two options are considered and a third is taken.
- A commendation by the owner – a good lesson from a bad example – “he was shrewd.”

The dishonest manager used his present temporal opportunities (stewardship) with a view of receiving future rewards. This made good business sense and according to Jesus, makes good spiritual sense as well.

The Teaching:

Faithfulness with material wealth is a prerequisite to being entrusted with spiritual wealth and rewards.

The Test:

Two basic financial practices that demonstrate God is our #1 priority.

1. Generous stewards give the _____ and _____ to God.

Proverbs 3:9-10

2. Generous stewards give _____ and _____.

1 Corinthians 16:2

Application: Three questions wise stewards regularly ask

1. Am I using the money entrusted to me in accordance with the Owner's wishes?
2. Am I carefully keeping account of where all the Owner's funds are going?
3. Am I becoming "best friends" with the "Owner" by the privilege and opportunity of managing His resources?

A Snapshot:

I _____, want to develop a deep, personal relationship with you, dear God. Today, I recognize that all I have and all I am belongs to You. I commit, today, to discover by Your grace, where and how to invest the time, talent, and treasure entrusted to me. Amen!