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 (NASB)
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!