

Entrusted with the Kingdom
Matthew 25:14-30

We need to talk about stewardship from time to time for 2 reasons. First, the _____ our Lord has given us is funded by the _____ of God's people. Second, Jesus challenged His followers to give their _____ to the kingdom as did His followers who wrote the New Testament.

Jesus' *Parable of the Talents* teaches us the following about stewardship. We are God's servants, and He has _____ us with His wealth. We have different gifts but are all _____ for the kingdom. Some believers put what God has given them to work. Some do not. There is great _____ for those who invest heavily in our Master's kingdom. Christians who are not generous with their God-given resources don't _____ their master. A Christian's failure to give generously to the mission of Christ is not a financial management problem but a _____ and _____ problem.

In the parable, Jesus uses a phrase that places emphasis on the _____ of the Master of the servants. Furthermore, the word for wealth is based on the word for "being" or "existence." He was entrusting everything that _____ to them. That is what our Lord has done regarding you and me. He has entrusted to us the _____ about that which is His life—the thing He gave up His life for on the cross—the message of the _____. That says something about how He sees you.

Everything we have is the Lord's to give and take. You are part of God's kingdom and have been given the gifts, talents, resources, and finances that you have because God _____ and trusts your _____ for Him—that you will act in His best interest.

To be a good steward is to _____ what little we have and place it at the Master's disposal for His purposes. We each must ask the question, "Will I be the servant whom the master invites to share in His _____, or the one to whom the master has to say, "There is something _____ with your heart and soul."