stewardship: who owns it?

seek first | week two

post falls campus | november 5th & 8th | bill krause

Entrusted | Matthew 25:14-30
Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.

The Parable of the Talents
Matthew 25:14-18 (HCSB) For it is just like a man going on a journey. He called his own slaves and turned over his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; and to another, one—to each according to his own ability. Then he went on a journey. Immediately the man who had received five talents went, put them to work, and earned five more. In the same way the man with two earned two more. But the man who had received one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.

God has trusted you with more than you may realize, and you can handle it well.
You can handle it well by rehearsing the meaning of three words until they become your lifestyle

Word #1 - Received: Everything you have, you received from God.
Key verse: ***Psalm 24:1****, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."*

Trace the origin of a talent you have
You may have worked hard to sharpen your talent, but you did not create the raw material.

Trace the origin of a treasure that you hold
Deuteronomy 8:17&18 (ESV) Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

The turn: Trace anything far enough and the answer is the same: *received*. Not earned and owned, but entrusted.

Word #2 - Required: God requires you to manage it for His Kingdom.
1 Corinthians 4:2 (NLT) *A person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.*

Identify what is required of a manager
Managers do not own, so they cannot use the master's resources however they please.

What God measures counts
God does not require *more*. He requires *faithfulness*.

Luke 16:10 If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones."
"A manager doesn't ask, 'What do I want to do with this?' but 'What does the Owner want done with it?'"

<u>Word #3 - Reckoning</u>: One day you will give an account for how you managed it.
Matthew 25:19 (NLT) *After a long time, their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money.*

The parable turns on a single phrase: "after a long time." The master left, but he did not stay gone. Every servant eventually stood before him. The reckoning is not meant to frighten believers into action. It is meant to give weight to ordinary, daily choices.

Delay is not the same as absence. Ask yourself:

- Do I live as though the master is watching, or as though he has forgotten?
- Would I be glad or anxious if he returned today?

If the master returned today, what would you be glad to show him, and what would you want more time to invest?

<u>Closing Thought:</u> The bookends of this section of Matthew are
Matthew 21:23 They demanded, "By what authority are you doing all these things? Who gave you the right?"
Matthew 25:31 But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne.

<u>Conclusion of the Parable:</u>
Matthew 25:28-30 "Then he ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- What have you and I **Received**?
- What does the Master **Require**?
- What does the **Reckoning** of what you and I have been Entrusted look like?







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