

#13 – PATRIARCHS AS STEWARDS

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We have clearly established the primary governorship of a patriarch. Being a steward is one of the key practical aspects of this role. A steward is an employee of a king, with the responsibility of carefully guarding and caring for the possessions of that king. Since being a steward is a requirement of being a patriarch, it needs to be understood that the steward needs to be a man who cares for his own possessions as if they personally belonged to the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

A man’s external possessions should express the order already existing in his mind and heart. A wise young ruler once said that we can evaluate the condition of a man’s heart by looking at his garage. There is a great deal of truth to this. The level of care a man puts into his externals (house, car, office, etc.), clearly shows the condition of his spiritual life. If a man says he loves his King (Jesus), but treats the King’s possessions (the man’s stuff) as if they are “only material things,” he proves only one thing--how he cares for his King. The truth of the matter is all of what we own belongs to Christ and the Father. Whatever He decides to give us, He expects us to steward with the care of perfection. An illustration I have used with my own children is to manage each task as if they will be presenting it to a king upon completion. The mindset of excellence changes quickly, unless of course the child views authority as “just another man telling me what to do.”

A true steward understands that he is a steward employed by God (the actual owner), to be in charge of His “stuff.” The steward knows he will have to give an account of all that has been entrusted to him. Nothing is too small and insignificant in His plan. God watches a patriarch in the small things in order to entrust to him larger things or responsibilities. The actual quote from the Word is: “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things…” (Matt. 25:21, NKJV). God owns the patriarch’s family, friends, possessions, and all that his fingerprints touch. A wise steward knows this and fears his day of account.

Stewardship is taught, not caught. Most men are clueless how to care for their families and possessions, primarily because their fathers never taught them. This is where the idea of a mentor comes in. Each man needs another man to help him care for his “stuff.” I can remember one of my mentors requiring me to return home to re-clean a power tool I had borrowed three times until it was cleaner than the day I borrowed it. I have never forgotten that lesson and now care for the possessions of others like they belong to Christ. Stewardship is the evidence that demands the verdict on a man’s devotion to his King.

Stewards who trust and believe in God are blessed in their communities and workplaces, and shall increase in all that they do. The Lord will cause the stewards’ enemies who rise up against them to be dealt with according to their own deeds. He commits to bless His stewards with all that He has set aside for them in His eternal storehouse. Each time a steward puts his hand to do something, God works to prosper his actions and investments. Not every treasure box saved for each steward is the same, but he is assured of this--a steward of the Lord will be given his portion.

Steward, give and it shall be given to you. Take and it shall be taken from you. A Godly steward knows this principle like he knows the balance of his checkbook. Any man who can hear these words, let him hear them. If you and I seek the kingdom of God first, He promises He will add to our bottom line. Why? So the steward will turn around to promote and prosper the ministry of the Lord.

**NEXT:** *The Policy Makers*

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