



The Joys and Fruits of Discipline

Zoom Bible Study | Tuesdays @ 7:00pm (CST)



May 2, 2023

Lesson One

Introduction

Stewardship is the job of supervising or taking care of something—something that you don't own but you are held responsible for its care, its upkeep, its maintenance.

When we become followers of Jesus Christ, we become stewards.

1 Corinthians 6:19- 20

Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 14:8

If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Psalms 100:3

Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

2 Corinthians 1:21 – 22

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

If you are born again, you have been given the Spirit to indwell you, and if the Holy Spirit indwells you, you have been declared as belonging to God. That is his seal of ownership on you.

Have you noticed that it is all or nothing with God?

- **Deuteronomy 6:5:** *Love the Lord your God with **all** your heart and with **all** your soul and with **all** your strength.*
- **Mathew 28:18-19:** *Then Jesus came to them and said, "**All** authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. . .*

- **Colossians 1:15 – 17:** *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him **all** things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all** things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before **all** things, and in him **all** things hold together.*
- **Psalms 24:1:** *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and **all** who live in it...*

Jesus came to set us free from all the fallout of our ownership ways.



Galatians 5:1: *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

Christ has set us free to follow him, and when we do, we find ourselves on **the journey of the faithful steward.**

We set at the feet of Jesus everything we claim to own. So, we give him back:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| our life | our marriages |
| our children | our ambitions |
| our careers | our health |
| our skills | our talents |
| our reputations | our time |
| our future | our money |
| our bodies | our possessions |
| our investments | our assets |
| our pensions | our bank account |

You are simply a steward; just that and nothing more.

- | | |
|--|--|
|  his life |  his marriages |
|  his children |  his ambitions |
|  his careers |  his health |
|  his skills |  his talents |
|  his reputations |  his time |
|  his future |  his money |
|  his bodies |  his possessions |
|  his investments |  his assets |
|  his pensions |  his bank account |

Now, every steward reports to someone—someone who oversees how well they do their job. Er belong to God and we report to him on the quality of our stewardship.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Our stewardship here on earth will determine whether we hear “well done, good and faithful servant” at the judgment seat of Christ or not.

But in addition, your stewardship of who you are and what you have will make all the difference in the quality of your life here and now!

If you were hiring someone to oversee all your “stuff”—whatever that might be—what would you look for?

- Integrity
- Commitment
- Expertise
- Attention to details
- Trustworthy
- Faithful
- Hard working
- Dependable

What else?

What does God require of us as stewards of all we’ve been given?

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

1 Corinthians 4:1 - 2

This, then, is how you ought to regard us: as servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries God has revealed. Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.

Acts 20:35

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.

1 Peter 1:15

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.

God requires of his stewards:

- Faithfulness
- Hard work
- Servant attitude
- Act justly
- Be merciful
- Be humble
- Live a pure and holy life
- Do the good works he ordained for you to do

So, if you want to be a good steward, then it will require that you put into your life the necessary. . .

DISCIPLINES!

Thankfully, what God assigns to us to do, he equips us to do:

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:16 – 17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

And the Word of God gives us practical guidelines to help us be very good stewards. In fact, there's a whole book in the Bible written to teach us the importance of a disciplined life:

Proverbs 1:1 – 3

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel: for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight; for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair.

Here are some other choice tidbits that Solomon told us about discipline:

"... fools despise wisdom and discipline" (Proverbs 1:7b).

"For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life" (Proverbs 6:23).

"He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored" (Proverbs 13:18).

"He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding" (Proverbs 15:32).

We will approach this study into two types of discipline:

1. Everyday disciplines
2. Spiritual disciplines

Everyday Disciplines

The Bible is a totally practical book, giving us guidelines for our everyday lives.

Titus 3:1

Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good...

Titus 3:8

This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

Ephesians 5:15 – 16

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Proverbs 21:21

Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

Hebrews 10:24 – 25

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

But for most of us, discipline does not come naturally. But here's the thing: Discipline is necessary.

Lack of discipline is self-inflicted suffering!

Discipline has a spill-over effect in your life. If you become disciplined in one area, it spills over to other areas. And if you are not disciplined in one area, it spills over to other areas.

Lack of discipline is like banging your head against a wall—it gets you nowhere and causes you lots of pain. That's just not smart!



In this study we begin this journey together: The Journey of a Faithful Steward. We'll find ways to encourage each other on this journey, and I will try to help you find some ideas that may help you become more and more disciplined in your everyday life and in spiritual disciplines. I will be sharing from my own struggles and failures and - believe it or not - successes. I am living proof that anyone can acquire discipline!