

"The biblical concept of stewardship, beginning with Adam and Eve and developed more fully in the NT, is that God is _____ and provider of all that any of us possess. Since all belongs to Him, it is incumbent that all be used for His _____ and _____."

"A collective responsibility was given to mankind to have dominion over the earth, care for it, and manage it for His glory. Individually, whether financial resources, real property, other valuable items, time, influence or opportunity, the _____ is to seek the _____ and will of God for every _____. He expects that we, regardless of _____, will exercise responsible stewardship, on His behalf, of every day that we live".

- Don Stewart and Charles Draper

Life Point: Living out biblical stewardship means we no longer ask "How much of _____ should I give to God?" but rather, "How much of _____ should I keep for _____?"

→ **Matthew 25: 14 – 30**

→ **Understanding the context of this parable is important**

- Jesus is speaking just days prior to his _____.
- Jesus is speaking in reference to a question regarding His _____.
- In the parable, He is speaking of the time period we are living in _____.
 - We are living '**between**' Matthew 25:15 and 19
- Jesus is teaching us the importance of _____ while we _____ for Him.

→ **Observations about this parable**

- Notice: The master '_____ ' his property to the servants **(v. 14)**
- The 'talents' represent _____ to use our _____ **(v. 15)**
- Upon the masters return, the servants were found to be either:
 - _____ – having made the most of their opportunity **(v.20-23)**
 - They were _____ by their master
 - They were invited to _____ in His joy
 - Their faithfulness opened the door for _____

- _____ – having wasted the opportunity **(v. 26-27)**
 - His master was disappointed because the servant had found _____ to not even _____ **(v. 24 – 25)**
 - His greatest problem was _____ **(v. 26)**
 - He gained no _____, and lost all _____ **(v. 28)**

Life Point: As a believer, I will one day stand before _____ and I will give an _____ to Him of my life...

..So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God. **Romans 14:12**

...and it will be revealed which works of my life were _____ for His kingdom and which works were _____ in light of eternity.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad... **2 Corinthians 5:10**

This judgment seat is not about salvation, but rather _____ or _____ based on the quality of how I have used my life for Christ and the Kingdom of God.

... whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person’s work has any value. If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames. **1 Corinthians 3:10-15**

For me as a boy, one of the most gripping illustrations my fiery father used was the story of a man converted in old age. The church had prayed for this man for decades. He was hard and resistant. But this time, for some reason, he showed up when my father was preaching. At the end of the service, during a hymn, to everyone’s amazement he came and took my father’s hand.

They sat down together on the front pew of the church as the people were dismissed. God opened his heart to the Gospel of Christ, and he was saved from his sins and given eternal life. But that did not stop him from sobbing and saying, as the tears ran down his wrinkled face—and what an impact it made on me to hear my father say this through his own tears—“I’ve wasted it! I’ve wasted it!” - **John Piper, *Don’t Waste Your Life***

Life Truth: We are given **one** life, and we are given **one shot** to make it count for **eternity**.