

Four Life Lessons on Stewardship

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

¹ "For *the kingdom of heaven* is like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.

After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.

' His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is* yours.'

But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (NKJV)

I. Father places His resources in Our Hands

Truth: Everything you call yours is actually on loan from God.

“Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O LORD, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things. Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength... Everything we have has come from you, and we give you only what you first gave us!

1 Chronicles 29:11-12,14 (NLT)

Deuteronomy 8:18

¹⁸ Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful... (NLT) ...to gain wealth (NKJV)

James 1:17-18 (NLT)

¹⁷ Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

¹⁸ He chose to give birth to us by giving us his true word. And we, out of all creation, became his prized possession.

The fundamental truth in the matter of stewardship is that everything we touch belongs to God.

John Blanchard

II. We're Responsible to Father for the way we use His Resources.

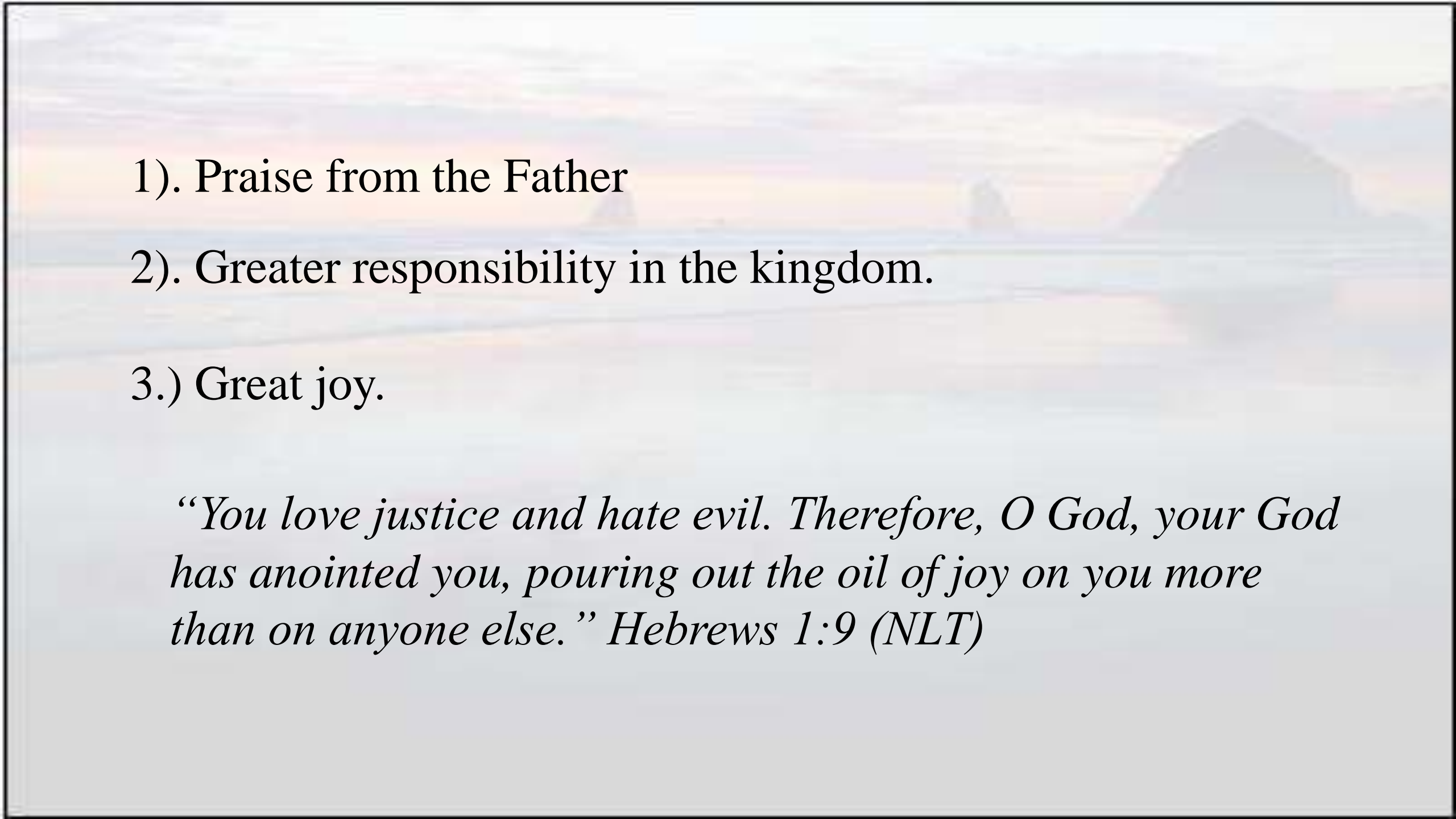
Father knows what you're capable of

“Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.' " So the LORD said to him, "What *is* that in your hand?" He said, "A rod." And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take *it* by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), "that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you." Exodus 4:1-5 (NKJV)

III. Father Reward's Good Management of His Resources.

The reward is the same for each steward who was faithful with God's resources regardless of their ability.

21 and 23 “His lord said to him (each of them), 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'”

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- 1). Praise from the Father
 - 2). Greater responsibility in the kingdom.
 - 3.) Great joy.

“You love justice and hate evil. Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.” Hebrews 1:9 (NLT)

IV. Poor Stewards Forfeit their Gifts, Privileges, and Rewards and Pay the Penalty.

“Therefore take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matt. 5:28-30 (NKJV)



Poor stewardship amounts to nothing less than withholding from the Lord that which is his. *Frank Gabelein*

Use everything as if it belongs to God. It does. You are his steward.