

Kingdom Training Level 5

Financial Faith

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LESSON 2:

THE STEWARDS

“GOD OWNS EVERYTHING; I’M HIS MANAGER”
RANDY ALCORN, THE TREASURE PRINCIPLE

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CHURCH OF CHRIST
SPRING 2015

Financial Faith

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SPRING 2015 CALENDAR

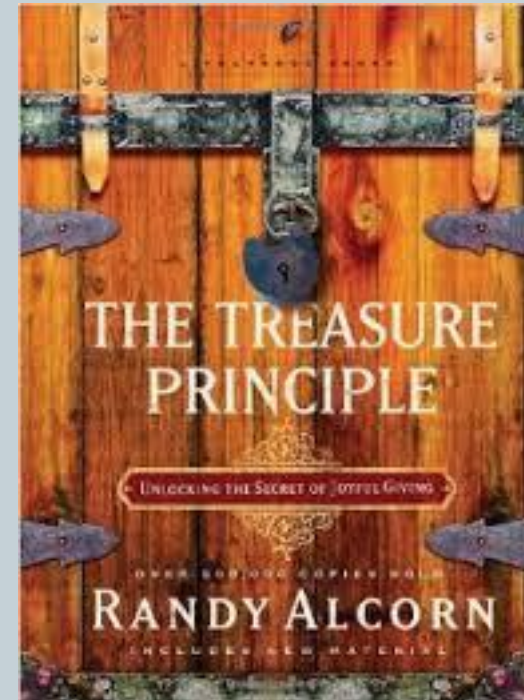
Class 1: March 8	Lord of Heaven & Earth	<i>Psalm 24:1</i>
Class 2: March 15	The Stewards	<i>Matt 25:21</i>
Class 3: March 29	The Debt Elephant	<i>Romans 13:8</i>
Class 4: April 12	Treasure in Heaven	<i>2 Cor. 9:11</i>
Class 5: April 19	Financial Planning	<i>Prov. 27:23</i>
Class 6: April 26	Financial Discipleship	<i>Luke 9:24*</i>

**Take Home Exam!*

Financial Faith: Tools

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- **Kingdom Training Level 5 Lessons**
- **Financial Faith Bible Studies**
- **“The Treasure Principle” by Randy Alcorn**
 - At the Book Table!
 - \$8 New or \$6 Used!
- **Financial Peace University (FPU)**
 - DaveRamsey.com
- **Email class questions to:**
 - brettkreider@alum.mit.edu



Introduction [Review]

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Hebrews 4:1 *For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates, even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

- Kingdom Training foundational principle!
- The Bible is meant to applied to our lives
 - It cuts and it takes work
- Wait! Does this apply to our finances?

Introduction [Review]

5

Hebrews 4:13 *Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*

- **Concept: INVADE!**
 - God in every area of our lives
- **Remember the why! Why are we doing this?**
 - Be faithful with what God has given us
 - Represent the Master to the world
 - Relieve worldly pressures and burdens
 - Create “**MARGIN**” in our lives

Introduction [Review]

6

1 Cor 4:1,2,7 (NRSV) *Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy ... What do you have that you did not receive? And if you received it, why do you boast as if it were not a gift?*

- Stewards are **SERVANTS** of Christ
- Stewards are **TRUSTED** with God's resources
- Stewards understand that everything we have is a gift from God

Introduction [Review]

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- Stewards understand Psalm 24:1
 - “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” [memory verse]
- Stewards know the giver
 - “Every good and perfect gift is from above” (Jas 1:17)
- Stewards may be poor
 - 2 Cor 8:1-7, the poor Macedonians begged to give

“God owns everything; I’m His manager”
Randy Alcorn, The Treasure Principle

Introduction [Review]

8

- Stewards are reward-focused
 - Hebrews 11:26 Moses looked ahead to reward
- Stewards are outcasts
 - Hebrew 11:13 calls them pilgrims, strangers, aliens
- Stewards belong to another country
 - In Phil 3:20 Paul reminds us that our citizenship is in heaven

“Biblical stewardship can be defined as handling all of GOD’s resources GOD’s ways for GOD’s glory” – Dave Ramsey

Steward Personality

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Circle the answer that best fits you!

- To manage my money, I
 - 1) Budget and stick to it
 - 2) don't really manage
 - 3) focus on enjoying it
- When I go out to eat, I
 - 1) Try to be frugal
 - 2) go with the flow
 - 3) enjoy food & plenty of it
- To describe my shopping...
 - 1) it's not my sport
 - 2) I don't use a list
 - 3) I love the experience
- My attitude towards coupons is
 - 1) Love to use them
 - 2) use 'em if I have 'em
 - 3) makes me feel "cheap"
- What I value the most about managing money is...
 - 1) Saving & investing
 - 2) Something else
 - 3) spending to give to others

Steward Personality

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- Your personality
 - Which number did you circle the most?
 - Frugal or Generous
 - Ramsey: Nerds or Free Spirit
- Other factors
 - Male or Female
 - Saver or Spender

What's Your Personality?

Caveat: any characterization over-generalizes but can be useful for understanding ourselves and changing our behaviors

Steward Personality

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Ecclesiastes 7:16-18 Do not be overrighteous, neither be overwise—why destroy yourself? Do not be overwicked, and do not be a fool—why die before your time? It is good to grasp the one and not let go of the other. Whoever fears God will avoid all extremes.

- Frugal vs. Generous
 - Not good/bad
 - Know yourself and understand your behaviors
 - Understand situational reactions
- What are some of the strengths of the frugal? Weaknesses?
- What are some of the strengths of the generous? Weaknesses?

Steward Personality

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- *Prov 23:4-8 don't wear yourself out to get rich; don't eat with a begrudging (stingy) host – he is always thinking about the cost!*
- **Why Understand Your Steward Personality?**
 - Satan attacks your **WEAKNESSES**
 - ✦ Frugal: illusion of control/security → “the Lord gives & takes away”
 - ✦ Generous: May fail to manage God's resources → debt and distress
 - Understand what to **CHANGE**
 - ✦ Frugal stewards fight stinginess and surrender to God's Lordship
 - ✦ Generous stewards fight to be faithful and accountable for God's resources
 - Both may struggle with **DISCONTENT**
 - ✦ We all desire to “feel secure” but
 - ✦ If we need more, was God's provision enough?

Steward Character

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Matt 25:14-18 *“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.*”

Steward Character

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Matt 25:19-20

After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

Memory Verse:

Matt 25:21 *His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’*

Steward Character

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Matt 25:22-23

The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Steward Character

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Matt 25:24-27

Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.'

Steward Character

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Matt 25:28-30

‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Steward Character

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Faithful Steward

- **\$2-\$5 Million Manager**
 - According to Ability
- **Proactive / Intentional**
 - They happened to money
 - Multiplied the balance!
 - Significant return on investment (ROI)
- **Received “Reward”**
 - The Master’s happiness

Lazy Steward

- **\$1 Million Manager**
 - Didn’t use “Ability”
- **Inactive (Fear-Lazy)**
 - Money happened to him
 - Returned only the balance
 - Not a competition! No ROI
- **Missed the “Reward”**
 - Misunderstood God

Steward Management

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Genesis 1:15 *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it*

- Steward = **MANAGER**
 - Our \$1-5 Million Garden! (over 10 years!)
 - Manager uses the resources God gives
 - ✦ If you don't manage, the garden grows out of control
 - No unaccounted funds
 - God gives faithful managers more



Steward Management

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- But I don't want to do a budget!
- Are there alternatives to Budgeting?
 - Sign God's name on everything!
 - Become a minimalist
 - Use only cash
- Is it worth it?



Proverbs 23:5 Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

Steward Management

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- **Manage or Be Managed**

- A budget tells your money where to go rather than you wondering where it went!
- Financial planning is not math – it is where your behavior includes math and **EMOTION**
- Learn to **FEEL** money again!



Steward Management

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- Stick With Me!
 - You can't change behavior without changing behavior!
 - The river of life will take over your life
 - It is never easy to start – but you can learn (example: driving)
- Margin must be created
 - By managing your time – you create time and become available
 - By managing your tasks, you are able to get things done and be “tuned in” – available in the moment
 - By managing money – you have a plan; it increases your confidence and peace and creates “margin”

“Live like no one else now so you can live like no one else later” – Dave Ramsey

Steward Management

23

- **Develop a Plan!**
 - It must account for all of your \$\$Millions\$\$
- **Work the Plan!**
 - You must balance your checkbook!
 - It takes 3 months to get “good” at it!
- **Change one Behavior**
 - Start using Cash!
 - At least for discretionary spending

Steward Management

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- **The Plan: Make a Cash Flow Plan**
 - Zero-Based Plan with Envelopes
 - ✦ Take-Home Pay must match Expenses
 - ✦ Equation: $\text{Income} - \text{Assigned Money} = \0
 - All money has a **NAME** = managed
 - ✦ Unaccounted-for money disappears!
 - Recommended: Envelope System
 - ✦ Learn to **feel** money again
- Resources
 - DaveRamsey.com
 - Mint.com
 - Financial Peace University



Steward Management

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● **Work the Plan: Track Your Expenses**

- Balance your checkbook every month
- Bouncing checks, incurring bank fees
 - ✦ Overdrafts are a sign of crisis living
 - ✦ \$29.5 Billion in overdraft fees each year!
 - ✦ 1/3 of the bank's revenues – from consumer laziness!

● **Resources**

- Accountability Partner!
- Financial Peace University



Steward Management

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- **Change One Behavior**

- Use cash for all Discretionary expenses
- Take out cash for the month or per paycheck for:
 - ✦ Clothing
 - ✦ Eating Out
 - ✦ Personal Care (hair, nails, etc.)
 - ✦ Entertainment (movies, concerts, sports)
 - ✦ Gifts
 - ✦ Miscellaneous Cash (left over)

- **How do I know how much?**



Steward Management

27

- **Income**

- Identify / Maximize Income
- Charity / Payroll Deductions
- Calculate Income

- **Expenses**

- Fixed Expenses – automate!
- Variable Expenses – save for!
- Savings
- Debt Payment
- Discretionary



Total Income

- Charity
- Payroll Deductions
- = Net Income**
- Fixed Expenses
- Variable Expenses
- Savings
- Debt Payment
- Discretionary

Net Income –
Total Expenses
= Zero!

Steward Freedom: “Faithful”

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- **How did I spend my \$\$Millions\$\$?**
 - Invested in a “Kingdom” home and paid it off!
 - Drove “Kingdom” cars
 - Used worldly wealth to make eternal friends
 - Supported missionaries – locally and abroad!
 - Generously gave to those in need
 - Served the poor

- ***My Treasure is in Heaven!***

Steward Freedom: “Margin”

29

- **Time Margin**

- Prioritize, schedule, and manage time not to overbook...
- To create time to be available for God and people

- **Task Margin**

- Discipline not just to get things done...
- So you can be “tuned in” = available in the moment

- **Money Margin**

- Create and work your budget – not to get rich...
- So you have confidence, peace, and room to be generous

Steward Management

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- **Salary Income**
 - Your greatest Asset!
 - Under-employed or Unemployed?
 - Overemployed
- **Commission Income**
 - Complicates budgeting process
 - Get specific help
- **Other Income**
 - Investments/ Tax Refunds
 - Unexpected
- **Deductions**
 - Charitable Giving (Contribution, Poor, Missions, etc.)
 - Taxes, Social Security, Medicare, Health Insurance Retirement



Steward Management

31

- Fixed Expenses – AUTOMATE PAYMENT!
 - Shelter (Mortgage / Escrow)
 - Transportation
 - ✦ Car payment/savings
 - ✦ Auto Insurance/taxes
 - ✦ Fuel/tolls
 - Food – Groceries (not eating out!)
 - Utilities
 - ✦ Electric / Water / Trash
 - ✦ Cable / Internet / Cell Phone
 - Life Insurance – Term

KEEP
CALM
AND
AUTOMATE

BASIC
NEEDS

Steward Management

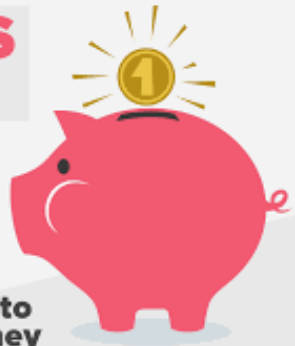
32

- Expenses to Save For – NOT EMERGENCIES!
 - Emergency Fund – \$1000, grow to 3-6 months of income!
 - Retreats / Camp / Education / HYC / Etc.
 - Auto Repairs – expect \$1200/car/year!
 - Home Improvement/Repairs → the cost of ownership
 - Medical Expenses – expect copays, braces, etc.
 - Home Supplies – could be considered “discretionary”

Christmas IS NOT AN
EMERGENCY

REASONS TO SAVE

- 1 Emergencies
- 2 Big purchases
- 3 Education
- 4 Low-risk place to store your money



Steward Management

33

- **Saving – SET GOALS!**
 - College Savings
 - Vacation
 - Additional Retirement
 - Special Purchases (Home, Car, Dreams...)
- **Debt – ELIMINATE THESE!**
 - Consumer Loans
 - Student Loans
 - Other Loans



Steward Management

34

- Discretionary – Only Use Cash!
 - Clothing
 - Eating Out
 - Personal Care
 - Entertainment
 - Gifts
 - Cash (left over)

- Learn to FEEL money again

