



The Apostolic Church

All Nations' Centre

Sermon Note

Prepared and Presented
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Theme:



The Faithful Steward of the Lord





- **The start of a new year creates hope and aspiration.**
- **Irrespective of how the year 2020 may have been for many of us, we still have goals and aspirations for the year 2021.**
- **It is worth noting that God also have expectation of us as believers.**
- **The greatest thing that could happen to us is when our goals aligns with God's expectation for us.**
- **One of God's expectation for us is we become Faithful Minister which is the overarching theme we are considering this month.**



- **Additionally, one of the goals that God has for us, is to be a Faithful Steward.**
- **If there is a time when Faithful Stewards are needed in our churches, communities and nations, it is now.**
- **One of the greatest desires of a true believer is to please God.**
- **Being a Faithful Steward is one of the ways we can please God.**
- **The title of today's message is BE A FAITHFUL STEWARD STEWARD OF THE LORD**



- 1. Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.**
- 2. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.**



Text: Ephesians 3:6 - 9 (NASB)

1. For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles — 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. 7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,



**To point out the significance of being
God's Faithful Steward.**



Description of a Faithful Steward





- **Greek word “oikonomos,” which means “the manager of a household or household manager.**
- **Being a Faithful Steward comes with great privilege and responsibility.**
- **Christians and more importantly the ministers of God, must know that one the ways we provide service to God is by being Faithful Stewards.**
- **In addition, Being a Faithful Steward is not only restricted to church leaders but includes all serious Christians.**
- **Being a Faithful Steward is more than a function we perform as Christians but a way of life.**

Description of a faithful steward



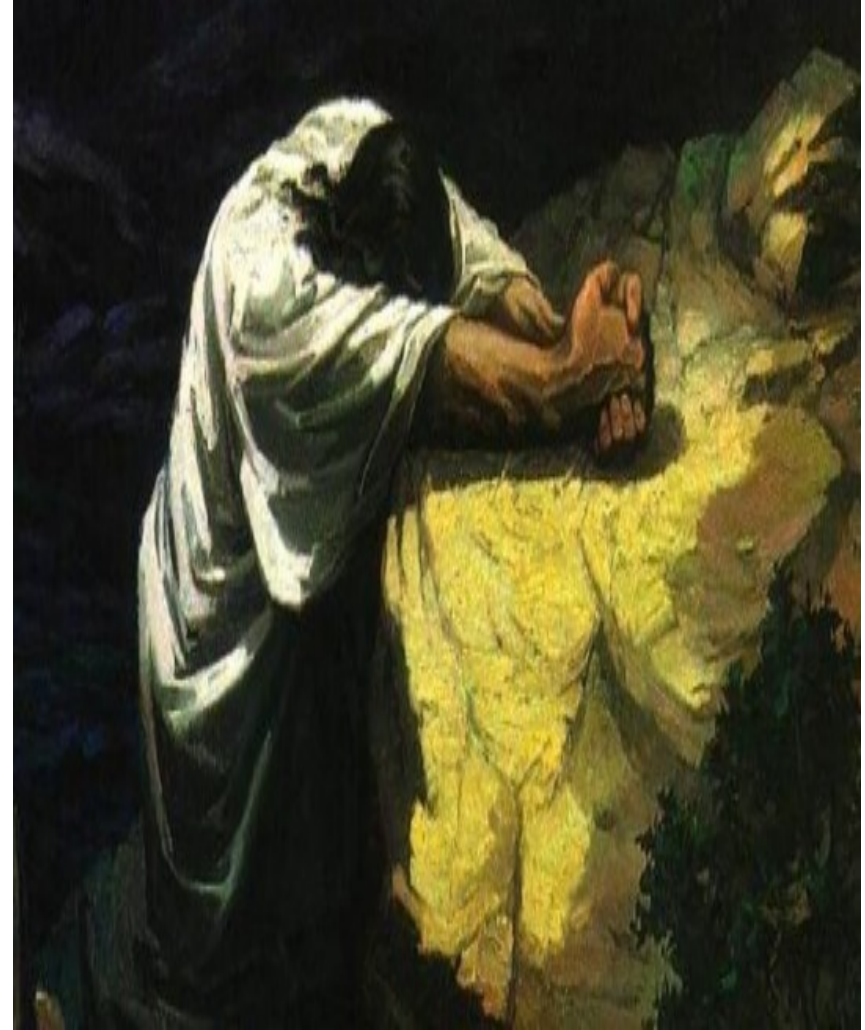
- **Synonyms for Faithful:**

- **Fidelity**
- **Loyalty**
- **Constancy**
- **Devotion**
- **Dedication**
- **Commitment**

- **Allegiance**
- **Adherence**
- **Dependability**
- **Reliability**
- **Trustworthiness**
- **steadfastness**



The Faithful Steward - Function





The space we operate as Faithful Stewards is not restricted to the church.

Scope of our stewardship is wide and includes:

- Churches**
- Families**
- Ministries**
- Employment**
- Communities**



A. Entrusted with the mysteries of God

- In the text we read in 1 Corinthians 4:1, Apostle Paul said we are stewards of the mysteries of God.**
- Also in Ephesians 3:2 Apostle Paul said to the church in Ephesus –”assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you”,**
- Believers are entrusted with the stewardship of the mysteries of God. The Greek meaning ‘Mysterion’ i.e. God open secrets which has been revealed to the church.**
- John Scott: said, in biblical terms, mysteries are truths which, although beyond human discovery, have been revealed by God and so now belong openly to the whole church.**



A. Entrusted with the mysteries of God

- **As Christians there are truths which have been entrusted to us that we need to let the world know. Therefore, a Faithful Steward will make this truth known to the people who need to know the truth.**
- **One of the things we are entrusted with is the communication of the gospel and we should be effective witnesses for God.**
- **Be a faithful trustee of the gospel**

Ephesians 3:1-3 “For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly.”



A. Entrusted with the mysteries of God

- **What does Paul mean by “the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to” him?**
- **This is the gospel itself and God holds Paul responsible for the revelation that he was given. Every one of us is also responsible for what has been given to us by God’s revelation, mainly from Scripture, and we are going to be held responsible for what we’ve done with the knowledge of God’s amazing grace.**
- **Apostle Paul found it a privilege and responsibility to share the truth of the gospel with people who did not know the truth.**
- **As Faithful Steward entrusted with communicating the gospel, let us use our different platforms to declare the truths that have been revealed to us. The gospel message is powerful to transform lives.**



B. Use of the gifts and grace given by the God

- **Ephesians 3:7** Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace,
- **1 Peter 4:10** As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.
- **Romans 12:6-8 ESV** - Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.



B. Use of the gifts and grace by God

- **Being a Faithful Steward requires us using all the resources, gifts and abilities God has given to us for the expansion of His kingdom and the betterment of mankind.**
- **Use that which God has given you to the optimum.**
- **That which God has given us, spiritual or natural abilities are to serve the good of others.**



C. Do good works

- **Being a Faithful Steward is about seeking the good of others - 1 Corinthians 10:24 ESV Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.**
- **Proverbs 3:27 ESV Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.**
- **Created for good works - Ephesians 2:10 “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in“.**
- **There are also people who needs the Faithful Steward’s help - Acts 20:35 ESV In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.**
- **We must display our stewardship by genuine care for the people i.e. showing real care.**

Challenges of being a Faithful Steward



To be a Faithful Steward, comes with challenges we need to overcome.

- i. Understanding of the steward and master's relationship**
- ii. Not knowing the grace given to us**
- iii. Wanting to function in other people's gifts or grace**
- iv. Criticism**
- v. Life's challenges**



i) Solid relationship with God

Relationship with God – The basis of our stewardship is based on our relationship with God. This is the reason why He has gifted us and entrusted His mysteries to us.

ii) Having a sense of call

Paul knew that God has called him to minister to the gentiles - Ephesians 3:7-9 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things.



iii) Power from on high

- **Apostle Paul believes that God's power was inside of Him – Ephesians 3:7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.**

iv) Equipped with all that we need to be a Faithful Steward

2 Corinthians 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

v) Heavenly perspective

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people, 24 knowing that it is from the Lord that you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.



A. Numbered amongst the faithful and not the unfaithful stewards

Luke 12:42-46 ESV

And the Lord said, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.



B. One day we will all give account (Accountability) of our stewardship

- Matthew 25:20-21 ESV And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’**
- In parable of talents in Matthew 25:14-30, Christ describes believers as stewards—meant to oversee His possessions and His affairs.**
- One day Christ, our master, will return and the faithful will be rewarded and the unfaithful disciplined. He will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (v. 23 NIV) and to others, he will call them “wicked and lazy servants” (v. 26 NIV).**



C. Failure to be Faithful Stewards could lead to God withholding His blessings - Haggai 1:3-11 ESV

- **Then the word of the Lord came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, “Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes. “Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.**



The significance of being a Faithful Steward is that:

- **God has entrusted us with His truths that we need to communicate to the world. we are God's fellow workers 1 Cor 3:9, 2 Cor 6:1.**
- **God has gifted believers with gifts, talents and abilities to serve Humanity and His purpose (expansions of His kingdom)**
- **He has equipped us with gifts and grace to be Faithfull stewards.**
- **He wants us to do good.**
- **There are consequences if we fail to fulfill our roles as Faithful Stewards.**
- **It is God who has appointed us as stewards and we cannot afford to abdicate our God given responsibility to ensure God's people are properly looked after.**

Theme:



The Faithful Steward of the Lord

