



Standing Strong in Your High Calling as a Military Steward

18 October 2024

“From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.”

Luke 12:48



TWO PREREQUISITES TO FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

- God calls us to lose
 - Matthew 10:38-39
 - John 3:30
- God calls us to die
 - Galatians 2:20
 - Colossians 3:3
 - “You can’t hurt a dead man”



TWO HINDRANCES TO FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

- Too often we believe the lie that our lives can be separated into secular and spiritual
- Most of us don't truly know how Christ led because we don't study intently enough the only text where God reveals Himself to us — God's Word



TWO HINDRANCES TO FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP #1

#1: There is no line between secular & spiritual

- ALL of our life is meant to be worship for His glory
 - 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - Colossians 3:17; 23-24
 - Matthew 5:16
 - *Dual* calling to the nation & Lord; *one* integrated life!
 - Charles Spurgeon: “To a man who lives unto God nothing is secular, everything is sacred.”
 - Abraham Kuyper: “There is no inch of creation where Christ does not rule and consequently no dimension of our lives in which He is not present.”
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TWO HINDRANCES TO FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP #2

#2: We must study and abide in God's Word

- Ezra 7:10 – **Study** the law of the Lord, **do** it, **teach** it!
 - Joshua 1:8 – Provides the critical context to Joshua 1:9
 - Psalm 119:5-6 – Meditate on it, delight in it; remember it
 - 2 Timothy 2:2 – What you have heard, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 – Be diligent...as a workman, not ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth
 - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – All Scripture is inspired by God...so that the man of God may be...equipped for every good work
 - Ephesians 6:17 – the Word of God is called the sword of the Spirit (the only weapon that is both offensive & defensive)
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HOW DO SCRIPTURES PORTRAY MILITARY SERVICE

- Many OT examples...consider David
- Paul describes fellow Christians as fellow soldiers
 - 2 Timothy 2:3-4; Philippians 2:25; Philemon 1:2
- Soldiers asked John the Baptist, “What shall we do?” John didn’t say quit, only don’t abuse your position (Luke 3:14)
- Paul discusses the role of an authority to rightfully wield the sword as a minister of God on those who do evil (Rom 13:4)
- Included in Hebrews 11 “Hall of faith” were multiple warriors who were “mighty in war” and “put foreign armies to flight”
- Only once do we see Jesus marvel at the strength of a man’s faith. Who is it? A Roman centurion! (Matthew 8:5-13)



FOUR ASPECTS OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: #1

#1: KNOW WHO YOU ARE—Never forget your identity!

- You are a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)
- You are a minister of reconciliation (2 Cor 5: 18-19)
- You are an ambassador (2 Cor 5:20)
- You are a son or daughter of the King of kings (John 1:12)
- You are a servant (1 Cor 4:1; 9:19; 3:5-7)



FOUR ASPECTS OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: #2

#2: Love deeply!

- Greatest commandment: Love God; love others (Matthew 22:37-40)
- Love others how Jesus loved us. How will others know whose you are? Radical, sacrificial love (John 13:34-35)
- Don't say you love God if you don't love your brother (1 John 4:20)
- No greater love than to lay down your life (John 15:13)
- "Above all, love each other deeply" (1 Peter 4:7-8)



FOUR ASPECTS OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: #2

Application quote on loving others:

“It is easier to be enthusiastic about Humanity with a capital ‘H’ than it is to love individual men and women, especially those who are uninteresting, exasperating, depraved, or otherwise unattractive. Loving everybody in general may be an excuse for loving nobody in particular.”

C.S. Lewis



FOUR ASPECTS OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: #3

#3: Serve wholeheartedly...for Christ alone!

- It's not about you! (Remember, you're dead; Gal 2:20)
- Christ did not come to be served, but to serve (Matt 20:28)
- Serve with excellence, seeking your reward ONLY from Christ (Col 3:23-24)
- Don't use your position for your own advantage (Luke 3:14)
- Put others' interests above your own (Phil 2:3-4)
- Follow Jesus' example and lay down your rights (Phil 2:5-8)
- Application quote: "You will know you have a servant's heart when you don't mind being treated like one" Warren Wiersbe



FOUR ASPECTS OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP: #4

#4: Be vulnerable!

- God's strength is perfected in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9-10)
- Let others know you are broken, so they know Christ is the real treasure, not you (2 Cor 4:7)
- Application quote: "People would rather follow a leader who is always real than one who is always right" Craig Groeschel



FOUR REALITIES OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

- We are not adequate for the task (2 Cor 3:5)
- We will all get discouraged and falter at some time
 - Example of Elijah (1 Kings 18-19)
- **Stand strong — endure to the end!**
(Mathew 10:22, 24:13; Mark 13:13; 2 Timothy 2:12; James 1:12; Hebrews 3:14; Rev 2:10, 26)
- **We need each other—we are stronger *together!***
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Pet 4:7-11)



TWO CONFESSIONS OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

- I love you
- I need you



FINAL PROCLAMATION OF FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS...

HERE WE ARE, SEND US!