

# Kingdom Foundations Part 10

## Training for Reigning (Promotion through Stewardship)

### I. Recovering the Concept of Dominion

#### A. We Were Designed for Dominion!

1. God's purpose for creating us was to rule His creation through His delegates, made in His image and likeness. (Genesis 1:26-28)
2. This "Dominion Mandate" was corrupted by Adam's sin, but it was regained by the "second Adam", Jesus Christ. (See Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15)
3. So now for us, in Christ, how does God restore the original intention? How does God give back dominion to His people? Is there a mechanism for recovering what we've lost?
4. Yes! Jesus clearly revealed to us that He will promote us on the basis of faithful "stewardship" of what He gives us.

#### B. Stewardship Is Management-Not Ownership

1. Adam's sin was rooted in his desire to be "as God".
2. Jesus showed us that the right way to dominion is through faithful management of what God has already given us.

***My maturity, prosperity and promotion in life tomorrow  
is all based upon how I well I take care of what God has entrusted  
to me today.***

3. Remember, "kingdom" is a governmental term; it involves "who's in charge". Jesus says those in charge will be those who are good stewards!

**The crowd was listening to everything Jesus said. And because he was nearing Jerusalem, he told them a story to correct the impression that the Kingdom of God (in its fullness) would begin right away. He said, "A nobleman was called away to a distant empire to be crowned king and then return. Before he left, he called together ten of his servants and divided among them ten pounds of silver, saying, 'Invest this for me while I am gone.' But his people hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We do not want him to be our king.'**

**After he was crowned king, he returned and called in the servants to whom he had given the money. He wanted to find out what their profits were. The first servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made ten times the original amount!'**

**'Well done!' the king exclaimed. 'You are a good servant. You have been *faithful with the little I entrusted to you*, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.'**

**"The next servant reported, 'Master, I invested your money and made five times the original amount.'**

**"Well done!' the king said 'You will be governor over five cities.'**

**But the third servant brought back only the original amount of money and said, 'Master, I hid your money and kept it safe. I was afraid because you are a hard man to deal with, taking what isn't yours and harvesting crops you didn't plant.'**

**'You wicked servant!' the king roared. 'Your own words condemn you. If you knew that I'm a hard man who takes what isn't mine and harvests crops I didn't plant, why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.'**

**Then, turning to the others standing nearby, the king ordered, 'Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one who has ten pounds.'**

**'But, master,' they said, 'he already has ten pounds!'**

**'Yes,' the king replied, 'and to those who use well what they are given, even more will be given. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.**

**The measure of my maturity is how I care for what God has entrusted to me.'"**

**Luke 19:11-27 NLT**

### **C. Correcting False Conceptions**

1. They thought the Kingdom of God would come "immediately"...just like today, there's a false impression among God's people that they could only live a Kingdom life when Jesus returned.
2. They put the Kingdom off into the future, in spite of what Jesus said earlier:

**And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."**

**Luke 17:20-21 KJV**

**Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God can't be detected by visible signs. You won't be able to say, 'Here it is!' or 'It's over there!' For the Kingdom of God is already among you.**

**Luke 17:20-21 NLT**

3. They resented the real message, which was that they would be held responsible for what they already had been given! And that their future promotion depended on present faithfulness...That they were...**TRAINING FOR REIGNING**...that the "dominion" they sought would not come by the instantaneous coronation of a political King, but as a reward of the King who had given them stuff to work with!
4. If there's anything you get out of our church focus on the Kingdom of God, let it be this: our future influence and power is based on our present faithfulness with what God has already given us!!!
5. Kingdom-driven living is a "right now" possibility!

## II. Practical Expression of Kingdom Driven Living

### A. Seven Key Principles from this Kingdom Parable

1. We are to start NOW taking responsibility for what God has entrusted to us

- a. Then, as now, the message of stewardship made some of Jesus' hearers angry...they preferred a Messiah who would inaugurate the Kingdom instantaneously, with no work involved on their part
- b. Then, as now, many understand the Kingdom of God only in its future form; just as many today believe the gifts of the Holy Spirit have ceased; the result of this kind of "futurist" thinking is the same...*an evasion of personal responsibility!*
- c. Kingdom-Driven living begins the moment you know enough to start taking God seriously about what He's entrusted to you!

The Christian church in America has been obsessed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ, focusing time, attention and study on the Antichrist, the Great Tribulation and the "rapture"...how convenient for us to "futurize" our focus...again with the same result, the evasion of responsibility to advance the Kingdom NOW through faithful stewardship!

2. We are responsible for what we HAVE, not for what we don't have!

- a. In other versions of this parable, Jesus gives each servant a different amount of gifting...but in Luke's gospel, each of the ten servants got one pound. The principle is the same: the issue is being a faithful steward of whatever God's given you.
- b. Many in this congregation received some form of paycheck this week. The amounts varied. But the principle is the same. Will you be faithful with whatever you have?

3. Increase, growth and profitability is EXPECTED.

- a. While the "prosperity" message sometimes abuses the scriptures and turns the gospel to greed, the biblical expectation here is clear. Jesus clearly expects us to increase!
- b. Judgment is based on what we did with what we had.

4. WORK is implied!

- a. Christianity is the only one of the world's major religions that has a theology of work!!! (Enroll now for our "marketplace ministry" Equip class)
- b. God is a Worker! We are made in His image and likeness.
- c. Work is a blessing, not a curse.

c. Whether you are a housewife or draw a paycheck, work is holy and biblical.

5. We will be held ACCOUNTABLE for what we've been given.

- a. We will all undergo a personal inspection regarding our stewardship
- b. If we really KNOW this, we'll SHOW this.

6. The reward of faithful responsibility is MORE responsibility!

**This is a marketplace maxim...those faithful in a little will be faithful in much.**

7. Your eternal assignment and influence will be according to present faithfulness!

- a. The false idea of heaven as an eternal rest home is unbiblical and harmful.
- b. In eternity, God's original intention will become experience-He will rule His creation through delegated authority!

#### **B. Reconsider Your life as a Steward:**

- Your physical body
- Your conscience
- Your time
- Your relationships
- Your possessions

Don't listen to the politicians telling you how bad off you are! Americans have been given MUCH...but to whom "much is given", much is required! Let's re-commit ourselves now to taking our stewardship seriously!

***My maturity, prosperity and promotion in life tomorrow  
is all based upon how I well I take care of what God has entrusted to me  
today.***

***I'm training for reigning!***