

STEWARDSHIP & PRIORITIES - Part 2

"Let me see your schedule and I'll tell you what's important to you."

Dave Medders, founder of Campus Ventures

Summary:

Disciple making is at the core of the Great Commission. If we truly desire to make a difference in this world for the cause of Christ we must be committed to Jesus and His mission: to bring glory to God through investing in people who will faithfully carry out that mission.

Disciples who follow Jesus...

- Are clothed with compassion, kindness and gentleness as they participate in the ministry. *Col. 3:12; 1 Peter 4:10*
- Allow Christ's love in them to ignite a desire for demonstrating good stewardship in all areas. *2 Tim. 1:13*
- Acknowledge the Holy Spirit's guidance in the wise use of their time, money, possessions, and love for others. *Ps. 119:36*

...Therefore, your commitments are:

- Audio, video or article: "[Stewardship of Love](#)" by Janelle Weeks (choose your preferred method of learning). An outline is included to accompany the audio. Discuss in group the things we have stewardship over.
- Booklet: "[Tyranny of the Urgent](#)" by Charles Hummel
- Bible Study: "Goals, Priorities and Use of Time"
- List all your activities for a one week period (keep track as you go) on the "Time Management Worksheet." Share what you learned with the group.
- Continue listing all your spending/income (keep track as you go) on the "Personal Spending and Budget" worksheet, in Stewardship- Part 1.
- Memorize one of the following verses: w/ topic: Priorities,
 - Psalm 39:4 or Psalm 90:12
- Record your Key Thought from this unit on the Action Plan page
- Ask God to show you how He wants you to apply "takeaways" from this unit
- Seek to meet with the Lord of the universe every day
- Go to CV, take good notes, and share your best insight with your group

BEFORE MOVING ON:

How does the concept of grace fit into stewardship and where could you see yourself becoming too legalistic with your time? finances? possessions? priorities? love?

The Stewardship of Love

(outline to accompanying audio)

What is good stewardship?

What things did God make us stewards over?

Is there such a thing as altruism?

Regarding returned love: Are you still “giving” love if you trade it for an equal measure? Would that be better labeled comfortable love? Doesn’t cost anything; no risk; no sacrifice. Is comfortable love really love or just comfort?

Matthew 5:43-48 Defining the word LOVE

v.45 Love unlovable “that you may be sons of your Father.” Who does the Father love?

Redefining the word love: The love GOD gives us to manage (stewardship) is NOT comfortable. It reaches far beyond those who might return it, to those who can’t, won’t or don’t know how. Define Christian love (by Gene Warr):

Is there a sacrifice in your love-giving?

Matt. 25:14-27 Love is an investment

v.14 “entrusted his property to them.” What is this except a definition of stewardship? Now imagine this story with the word “talent” being replaced by “a measure of love.”

v.15 according to their “ability.” Ability to do what?

Gave smallest amount to the one considered least _____. God risked putting His love in me. Will I obey His command to _____ it in _____?

v.18 “dug a hole and hid.” Where are you digging holes and hiding God’s love?

v.26 “lazy.” God entrusted His love to us. Are we going to **invest** it or be lazy & **bury** it?

v.27 Why does God place His “stock” of love in us?

Loving others with God’s love, moves them to love God.

Love is the most important thing we’ve been given stewardship over!

Matthew 25:29 “he who has will be given more – an _____!”
God has an endless supply – there is no need to bury or hoard or be stingy.

BE A RISK TAKER – THROW IN THE EXTRA MEASURE!

Can you think of someone that maybe you haven't risked loving - one whose God-given love you've chosen to "bury in the dirt" of your busy life? Who? _____

GO ON, TAKE THE RISK OF REJECTION.

John 15:16-18 Chosen for fruit-bearing

v.16 We have been chosen to go and bear fruit at will _____.

v.17 How can we do it?

v.18 Even Jesus experienced unreturned love.

RISK BEING REJECTED-YOU'RE IN GOOD COMPANY!

James 1:17-27 A Lesson on Pollution

v.17 Every **perfect** gift is from above. Perfect love, untainted & unpolluted by the world.

v.18 We are the _____!

v.27 What is true religion; pure & undefiled? Two things: to love the _____,
and **not pollute** the _____ given to us from above.

1 John 4:7-12 Complete Love

Love is NOT us loving God. It's _____! As His steward, I must invest it wisely. ONLY IF WE LOVE OTHERS IS GOD'S LOVE MADE COMPLETE IN US!

God endorses "Triangular Love"... What is it?

v.19-21 Do you truly love God? Then love your brother, so he can learn to love God.

James 4:17- Now I have another great opportunity to quit _____!

Luke 6:38- The measure I receive is in direct proportion to _____!

1 Peter 4:8 - Love covers over a _____!

There **will be** a record of how you spent your life this day, this month, this year. It's not too late to make a resolution! Write it out here:

I, _____, resolve to _____

beginning this day, _____, and continuing for the rest of my God-ordained years!

GOALS, PRIORITIES AND USE OF TIME

1. Define the words “priority” and “goal”:
2. Luke 10:38-42 & 14:18-20 warns against enemies of the wise use of time.
According to these verses, what should you be careful to avoid?
3. What are the things in your life that you find distract from using time wisely?
(Consider what motivates you and how that can cause distraction at times.)
4. Do a verse analysis on Matthew 6:33.
 - a. Questions about the verse:
 - b. How is the surrounding context significant?
 - c. Define key words:
 - d. Cross reference verses: thoughts:
 - e. Message of the verse:
 - f. Application: What has God said to me? What will I do about it?
5. What does Ephesians 5:15-17 have to say about the wise use of time?
6. List 5 goals of which you are most conscious:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

Prioritize them by putting a number in front of each according to their importance to you.

Now, re-number them based on their priority according to your current schedule. You may want to ask others for input on the order that they observe in your life.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Do these goals all match the priorities you think you should have?

What would it take to align what you want or should have for your goals in life, with what you do have?

You can tell what's important to people by what they spend their time doing. If you ask someone to list their priorities, you'll find out what they think should be important. If you want to know what their priorities really are, inspect their schedule - watch their life.

Assignment: Write out a short-term goal in each of the following areas (a worksheet has been included)...

Financial -

Evangelical -

Spiritual Growth -

Educational or Work-related -

Social/Recreational -

Health -

Family -

Make sure your goals are attainable, measurable, and will help you reach the long-term priorities you determined above. Put this goal sheet where you will be reminded to pray over it. There are seven areas, so you could pray for a different one each day. Praying over them regularly will also help hold you accountable to working on them.

SHORT-TERM GOALS

Ending Date: _____

1. Spiritual Growth-

2. Evangelical -

3. School or Work-related -

4. Health -

5. Social/Recreational -

6. Family -

7. Financial -

... put these in your prayer notebook and pray for one each day of the week.

Time Management Worksheet

Date: _____

Time	Description of Activity	Urgent	Important	Both
5:00 AM				
5:30				
6:00				
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Date: _____

Time	Description of Activity	Urgent	Important	Both
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