

Money: It All Belongs To God

“Un\$trapped” Series- Part 02

Connect: In your opinion, what is one of the best investments that you have ever made? What might have happened if you had not made your investment?

Hook: For the believer, we know that God owns everything, and many honor God as stewards by giving back to God a regular amount or percentage. But what about the part that is left? Isn't that God's as well? It really is, if we are stewards. We get to choose how to use it, but it still belongs to God.

God's word claims that He owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10). Although human beings claim ownership of livestock, God is saying that He has a prior ownership claim. People simply manage God's cattle whether they acknowledge it or not.

We have only grasped stewardship if we realize that all our money must be under God's control. And that is actually the path to financial freedom. You see, if I consider all of my money to be under God's control, then I can seek and find God's help in every decision about material things. What a relief! God is not only the owner of my possessions; He's my advisor about how to manage it all!

Today we will look at the example of a woman who was praised for her stewardship. She teaches us that stewardship is far more than giving money. Stewardship touches our work ethic and all the ways that we spend and invest.

Book: Proverbs 31:10-21

Pro 31:10 Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies.

Pro 31:11 Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life.

Pro 31:12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

Pro 31:13 She finds wool and flax and busily spins it.

Pro 31:14 She is like a merchant's ship, bringing her food from afar.

Pro 31:15 She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls.

Pro 31:16 She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard.

Pro 31:17 She is energetic and strong, a hard worker.

Pro 31:18 She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night.

Pro 31:19 Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber.

Pro 31:20 She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.

Pro 31:21 She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes.

Look:

The writer of Proverbs states that there are several factors that made her value “far above rubies”. Discuss how the scriptures show us each of the following activities and how it makes for good stewardship:

1. She worked hard.
2. She invested wisely.

3. She gave to those who are in need.

4. She planned for the future.

What were the end results of this woman's good stewardship of all that God had given her?

Read Proverbs 30: 7-9. Why did this man ask God for these two things? How do these two things speak to good stewardship?

People often fall into the following three categories:

1. Living above your means
2. Living within your means
3. Living below your means

How do each of these categories help or hinder our ability to be a wise steward?

Took:

What changes do you need to make to improve your stewardship?

What is one area that you feel you are "living above" your means?

In what area of life do you wish that you had more to give to help others? (time, money, emotions...)