



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – March 8, 2022

The Lord be with you.

What do you sense God calling you to do with your life? Looking at everything going on in our world today, you look at the needs, the hurts, and yes, the opportunities. What is it that God wants from you?

It's a question I think about a lot. The question that is always fresh, a question I want to reflect on today with the help of the Apostle Paul as he writes, and what God is calling him to do and what God is calling you and me to do. I'm looking at 1 Corinthians chapter 4 verse 2, where Paul writes, "It is required of stewards that they should be found trustworthy." Now, the word steward is not exactly a word that we use every day, but it is a translation of the Greek word... Oiknomos. And it literally means one who manages a household, it is a house manager, that's the literal meaning. A steward was a special kind of servant to whom his master entrusted the management the care, the oversight of the master's property, a storage job was to devote his time, his talents, his energies to looking out for his master's interest, to manage the day-to-day activities of his master's estate, to watch out for his master's interest, not his own. I mean, the master might not even live on the estate, but he has trusted... That is, He has entrusted his steward to care for his estate.

Now, there were a couple of ideas inherent to being a steward in that first century world first, the steward cared for resources that were not his own. I think perhaps a more hopeful word for us today and steward might be trustee, a trustee is appointed to run and manage a trust. A trustee does not own the trust that he or she represents, but they have a responsibility for that which is put in their trust, so that they are managers, custodians, stewards, if you will, of that which does not belong to them. So the first idea inherent to being a steward is that a steward cares for that which is not his own, but has been entrusted to him by his master.

The second idea inherent to being a steward is that of giving an account. A steward will render a count to his master for what her she has done with that entrusted to them. A steward is trusted. Yes, but accountable. So I think we're beginning to get a sense of what Paul is saying as He writes, It is required of stewards that they should be found trustworthy, and that God has entrusted to each one of us as His children, He is entrusted to us certain talents, gifts, time, motivations that are to be used for His kingdom, to serve Him and to serve others.

The gifts, the talents that God has entrusted to each of us are to be used for Him, and we will give account to Him. Jesus did say after all, that to whom much is given, much is required. Well, I remember one day when I realized that the money I had, well, that money really did not belong to



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me, that belong to God, to be used as God would want it used, rather than just to be used and abused. And when it comes to being stewards of our time, God has actually entrusted to us all the time that we need for doing what he's asking us to do. Whatever God has entrusted to us, we are required to invest the Lord's resources wisely for the benefit of his kingdom. By the grace of God, I am what I am. And I need to always be asking, How as a unique person, God has made me, that I can be stretched to the service of God in his kingdom, so that nothing that God has given to me is wasted and everything he's given me is used for His glory.

Notice what Paul says is required of stewards, he says it is required of stewards that they should be found trustworthy. God does not ask storage to be successful, but he does ask them to be trustworthy. God does not ask me to be successful in Christian ministry, he does ask me to be trustworthy, that you and I be faithful trustees of the gifts, the talents, the resources and time entrusted to us. Some years ago, I returned to the elementary school that I attended as a boy, and in the sharing of stories that there are at a time like that, I learned of an elderly woman, I don't know her name, but I learned that she lived right across the street from the playground where we were play. And I learned that she was an invalid, unable to get of bed, and that she had asked her children to put a mirror on the wall of her bedroom so that as she lay there in bed, she could see us children playing on the playground, and she could pray for us. I can only wonder how her prayers have shaped and affected my life.

It is required of stewards that they should be found trustworthy.

And so as you look at your talents gifts, many time, you want to ask yourself what Jesus is calling you to do as His steward. You're not responsible to save the world, but to be trustworthy in the situation into which God has put you. I don't want to keep my not being able to do something great. To keep me from doing what I can.

Lord Jesus, remind us today that all that we have issues, it's not ours, so help us to manage to steward your gifts of time, talent, possessions, may our unique personalities, our skills and gifts be used for you and for your kingdom.

I am Tim Smith a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening until next time.