



## Stewardship Motives of the Heart Lesson 6 1Q 2018

### The Marks of a Steward presented by Tim Jennings

announcements at end of document

#### SABBATH

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Read the memory verse:

Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup>  
Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. 1Cor 4:1,2 NKJV

What is a steward?

A person who manages another person's property or is in charge of his business, or household, a caretaker to fulfill the desires of the owner.

Any qualities that a good steward must possess?

Read second paragraph, "A Christian steward..." In the lesson they recount some important traits, which we will explore further, which are:

- Faithfulness
- Loyalty
- A Clear Conscience
- Obedience
- Trustworthiness

Did you notice the glaring omission? UNDERSTANDING!!!! Understanding of God, His character, methods, principles and plans:

I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father. *The Message*

Can a person be faithful, loyal, have a clear conscience, obedient and trustworthy and still not understand what the Master wants, or what the Master is doing? And if that is the case could such a steward actually end up working against the Master out of ignorance, but with total devotion?

So, I want to add as an attribute for all truly successful stewards that they know their Master, and understand Him, His methods, designs, and plans in order to intelligently cooperate in fulfilling one's duties.



Now, according to our memory verse, to what are we to be stewards of?

The mysteries of God—can we be loyal, faithful, obedient to the mysteries of God if we don't know what they are and don't understand them?

What are the mysteries of God?

Are my mysteries of God something God wants to keep hidden?

Why are these things mysteries? What has caused the mystery?

Are the mysteries of God the truths about God that God has wanted all intelligences to know but because of sin, because of Satan's lies, because of the limitations of finite minds are truths we don't naturally comprehend?

According to the SDA Bible Commentary:

In the NT, *mustērion* [which is translated mystery] refers to something that God wills to make known to those who are willing to receive His revelation, rather than to something that He desires to keep secret. Throughout Paul's writings the word carries the meaning of something which, though incapable of being fully understood by unassisted human reason, has now been made known by divine revelation (see ch. 16:25, 26; etc.) In Rev. 1:20; 17:5, 7 it has reference to a symbol that requires interpretation for its understanding.

Paul regarded it as his mission to make known the mystery "which was kept secret since the world began" (Rom. 16:25; cf. 1 Cor. 2:7; Eph. 3:3, 4). God's eternal purpose to redeem man in Christ has now been declared in Christianity. Thus Paul describes the whole Christian revelation as a mystery (Rom. 16:25; 1 Cor. 2:7–10; Eph. 1:9; 6:19; Col. 1:26; 2:2; 1 Tim. 3:9). He applies the term to the incarnation of Christ (1 Tim. 3:16), to the union of Christ and His church as typified by marriage (Eph. 5:32), to the transformation of the saints at the second coming (1 Cor. 15:51), to the opposition of Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:7), and especially to the admission of the Gentiles to the kingdom of Christ (Rom. 16:25, 26; Eph. 3:1–6; Col. 1:26, 27).<sup>1</sup>

So, when you read in the Bible "the mystery of God," are you hearing the truths that God wants you to know?

Revelation states:

But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets." (10:7)

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<sup>1</sup> Nichol, F. D. (Ed.). (1980). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* (Vol. 6, p. 610). Review and Herald Publishing Association.



When happens when the seventh angel does sound his trumpet?

The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.” Rev 11:15

So if the sounding of the seventh trumpet is the second coming of Christ—what is the mystery of God that is accomplished just before that final trumpet sounds?

What is this mystery—this truth that God wants you to know? Could it be?

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Col 1:27

Does God want a people to be filled with His presence, to be restored to genuine Christlikeness before Christ returns?

Can that happen if we hold to lies about God, specifically that God is the source of inflicted pain and suffering?

## **SUNDAY**

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Semper Fi which is short for Semper Fidelis, which is Latin and means Always Faithful and is the motto of the US Marine Corps

What does it mean to be faithful?

The lesson states, “Being faithful means staying true to what we know is right, especially in the heat of spiritual battles.”

What are spiritual battles?

Read second paragraph, “Spiritual conflicts...” Being faithful to what one knows is true, and choosing that regardless of pressure, but that begs the question—how do you know what is true?

Can one be faithful to something that they believe is true but isn't?

Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’<sup>23</sup> Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ Mt 7:22,23



Does it sound like the ones described here had rejected believing in God? Had they decided to become agnostic? Is the text describing non-Christians? Were they being faithful to what they thought was true? Were they faithful to Christ?

So, the question really is two-fold—are we faithful—do we make choices to do that which we currently believe is right—and do we have a solid basis for determining what is right, healthy and true? Do we continually seek to grow in our knowledge of truth and improve both our understanding and practices of life?

And how do we know what is true or right? This is the 7 levels of moral decision-making—people come to different conclusions based on their level of maturity and what assumptions they have when they approach the situation and what standard they use for authority.

If a person has the assumption that God's law is imposed, that God dictates and we obey, then after Adam sinned one reads Genesis 3 as God ordering the subordination of Eve under the authority of Adam. With that assumption in place, based on accepting the lie about God's law, one then reads the rest of Scripture to conclude women should not be in leadership in the church, should remain under the headship of men.

Situation doesn't matter, ability doesn't matter, Christlike character doesn't matter, equipping by the Holy Spirit doesn't matter...no the only thing that matters is gender. For those with such mindsets, a woman called by God, filled with the Holy Spirit, gifted with Spiritual gifts, would still be expected to be subordinate to a man—regardless of the spiritual maturity of the man.

The mature realize in Genesis 3 that God was not dictating a new design for human relationships, but merely diagnosing accurately what would result of Adam and Eve breaking God's design—what happens when love is replaced by selfishness in the heart: The strong dominate the weak and the weak seek the protection of the strong. Thus God's pronouncement—here is how sin has marred my beautiful design for relationships.

Sadly, men continue, in their insecurity to promote dominance over women.

So, let's examine faithful stewards through the seven levels and see who is the truly faithful steward:

1. Reward and punishment
  - a. obeys to avoid punishment and be rewarded
2. Marketplace exchange
  - a. obeys because of the agreed compensation
3. Social conformity
  - a. obeys to be recognized as the best steward by peers
4. Law and order
  - a. obeys not to be prosecuted for a crime
5. Love for other people



- a. obeys because he loves his master
6. Principled based living
  - a. obeys because he loves his master and understands the laws upon which life is based
7. Understanding friend of God
  - a. obeys because he loves his master, understands the laws upon which life is based and what the master is trying to accomplish

Which is the truly faithful steward?

So, with this in mind lets examine some scenarios:

You get a message, purported to come from God telling you to kill another human being—what do you do?

1. Reward and punishment—you kill the other human being without thought in order to avoid punishment
2. Marketplace exchange—you kill the other person to avoid losing your benefits package
3. Social conformity—if your culture accepts that God, in certain situations would have someone killed, then you kill the other person
4. Law and order—you would cite the 10 Commandments, thou shall not murder and you would claim the message is false, not from God and reject it and no longer trust the source of the message
5. Love for others—you would seek a way to avoid killing the other person while still being loyal to God, would likely decide God is love and God wouldn't kill so you would reject the message
6. Principled based living—you understand that killing violates God's design and thus you would reject the message and not kill
7. Understanding friend of God—you know God personally, you understand God is love and His designs, but you also understand that because God is the one asking you to do this, there must be some purpose beyond your understanding. Your heart resists the instruction and you argue with God, but in the end you take your son Isaac to the mount to sacrifice him as God requested. You are relieved in the end to discover God never intended for you to kill your son, but did have another purpose—for you to surrender your heart completely to Him and stop trying to go your own way.

Other examples you could go through on your own:

- David and the showbread
- The story of the old and young prophet in 1Kings 13

Bottom green section asks us to read Rev 2:10, “Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.”



What does it mean to be faithful unto death?

- Were those who drank the Kool-Aid in Jonestown faithful unto death?
- Did anyone see the ABC documentary recently on Waco and David Koresh and the Branch Davidians? Were those who burned to death in Waco faithful unto death? They showed video of the members of the compound, who spoke to the FBI during the siege and they all stated they were they freely, because they believed they were doing God's will.
- What about those who flew the planes into the Trade Towers on 9/11, were they faithful to their god unto death?

Is faithfulness unto death enough to ensure one receives the crown of life?

Does it matter to whom one is faithful?

Interestingly, if you examine the theology of David Koresh it is almost exactly like the theology of ISIS:

- God is supreme and all powerful
- We must resist evil and sin
- Jesus instructed His disciples to carry swords
- Jesus will come back to destroy the enemies of God and punish sin
- When people resist the will of God we must take up arms and fight back
- God will use power to punish His enemies

This is basically the same theology taught by all who hold to penal substitution theology. It was manifested in large scale in Rwanda when Christians murdered each other by the millions in a four-month period.

The people who follow these lies couldn't tell the difference between right and wrong—why? Because they read the Bible literally, allowed someone else to do their thinking for them, and didn't understand design law—God's methods.

It is not possible for God to get love and trust by threatening to kill those who don't love and trust Him—when we understand this reality then we recognize any theology which has God using His power to kill His enemies is false.

## **MONDAY**

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Read top dark section, “No one can...” What brings about unwavering loyalty to God?

Can God get loyalty with displays of might and power?

Paul talks about the gospel being the power of God unto salvation—what types of power are there and



what impact will the use of these types of power have upon people?

In other words, let's examine the use of different types of power in the recruitment of followers and which type results in the greatest unshakable loyalty?

### **Coercive Power**

Coercive power is the use of force, might, strength to threaten, intimidate, or punish in order to pressure someone, who is otherwise unwilling, to comply with your will.

Can one get loyalty by the use of threats? In other words, if you get people following you with coercive power do your followers stay true and loyal against all opposition? What will break coercive power and cause such followers to collapse, to give in, to betray you?

- A bigger threat
- A desired inducement
- Believing a lie
- Genuine love for someone or something else
- Hope for freedom

### **Inducing Power**

The power of bribes, payoffs, promotions, money and advancement, praise and adoration. Does this type of power result in reliable, stable, trustworthy, and unshakable followers? What will cause them to collapse and betray you?

- A serious threat
- A better payoff
- A lie
- Genuine love for someone or something else

### **Deceiving Power**

The power of lies—deceit and deception. The power of lies is stronger and more potent than coercion or inducement. Adherents who follow based on lies—if they truly believe those lies—will not be swayed by threats, will not be bought by bribes; consider members of cults, or various terrorist groups.

But, while lies are more powerful and reliable in achieving converts than threats or inducements, will such followers be faithful beyond betrayal? Will those who follow based on lies remain true in the face of all opposition? What will cause the deceived follower to collapse and betray you?



- Another lie that they believe
- The truth—as the truth exposes the lies, if they accept the truth they will be set free! And the truth may be revealed by either facts or experiences of life
- Love for someone or something other than self—some of the mothers in Waco got their children out

### **The Power of Love**

Does this power result in reliable, stable, trustworthy, unshakable outcomes? Will those who follow based on love be loyal against all opposition?

The power of love is stronger than bribes and threats. But there is one power that can, and did, break the power of love—lies. Just remember Eden and the fall of our first parents.

### **The Power of Love and Truth**

But there is one power that cannot be broken and that is the power of love combined with truth. Truth and love combined result in something impenetrable! This is why the Holy Spirit is known as the Spirit of truth and love.

### **Restraining Power**

I would be remiss if I didn't mention one other use of power—restraining power. Restraining power is that force exercised to restrain, restrict, reduce, impede, slow, and/or obstruct injury, pain, suffering, destruction and evil.

Examples of restraining power include a parent restraining a child running toward the street; Center for Disease Control officials implementing quarantine; mental health professionals forcibly hospitalizing and medicating a psychotic patient; and benevolent societies incarcerating those bent on exploiting others.

Restraining power is the power of love at work, and can, when rightly understood, result in loyalty.

So, our loyalty to God must be based on truth and love—and this is the same as saying being so settled into the truth both intellectually (truth) and spiritually (love) that one cannot be moved—which is also known as...the sealing, being sealed by God!

Read first paragraph, “Knowing that God’s name means “jealous”...” Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. Exodus 34:14

What does jealous mean? Dictionary has these definitions:



adjective

1. feeling resentment against someone because of that person's rivalry, success, or advantages (often followed by of):

He was jealous of his rich brother.

Does this apply to God? –No!

2. feeling resentment because of another's success, advantage, etc. (often followed by of):

He was jealous of his brother's wealth.

Does this apply to God? –No!

3. characterized by or proceeding from suspicious fears or envious resentment:  
a jealous rage; jealous intrigues.

Does this apply to God? –No!

4. inclined to or troubled by suspicions or fears of rivalry, unfaithfulness, etc., as in love or aims:

a jealous husband.

Does this apply to God? –No! because this is self-focused, the husband jealous for his privileges from the wife, it is selfish.

5. Bible. intolerant of unfaithfulness or rivalry:

The Lord is a jealous God.

Does this apply to God? –No! God gives us genuine freedom and the entire conflict between good and evil is evidence that He does not use His power to stop people from rejecting Him and going after other God.

6. solicitous or vigilant in maintaining or guarding something:

The American people are jealous of their freedom.

Does this apply to God? –Yes! God is jealous for His creation, for His children, for their health, their welfare, their good, which means He is protective of His designs—laws because only in harmony with them is their life, health, happiness. God is jealous to protect life, love, truth, freedom, righteousness—His creation—and He can only do so by operating in harmony with His own character, i.e. His own designs. God will not break His own design laws, in other words He won't violate liberty by using power to punish sinners—to do so would destroy that which He jealously protects.

When you hear God is a jealous God what do you hear—the resentment, anger, envy elements, or do you hear the vigilant to guard and protect that which He loves?

One way for you to protect yourself in the future from drawing the wrong conclusion from texts that say God is a jealous God, is to replace the “j” with a “z” God is a zealous God. According to Strong's Hebrew Lexicon:

נָצַר [qana' /kaw·naw/] v. A primitive root; TWOT 2038; GK 7861; 33 occurrences; AV translates as “jealous” 10 times, “envy” nine times, “jealousy” five times, “envious” four times,



“zealous” twice, “very” twice, and “zeal” once.<sup>2</sup>

Thus, zealous is a legitimate translation and guards against attributing selfish and sinful attributes to God.

Read second paragraph, “Our loyalty is important...” This is well said, bravo! You cannot genuinely be loyal to God by adhering to a checklist of rules!

Read third paragraph, “Where there is loyalty...” Again another well stated paragraph. They recognize exactly that loyalty is what God wants, and it cannot be achieved by threatening to kill those who are not loyal.

Yet, that is exactly what much of Christianity teaches—why? Because the false law has been accepted and it appears to be right and just to teach that God will use His power to punish the wicked. Yet, this teaching results in undermining loyalty to God, damaging human reason, creating mindless thoughtless Christians who will hurt others in the name of their god.

## TUESDAY

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Read first paragraph, “There are many...” This is so true, when our conscience is not clear it activates stress circuits, we are anxious, fearful, keyed up, not at ease. We seek peace, but if we don’t repent how do we lesson the pressure from our conscience? By denial and distortion, projection and externalization. We begin to lie to ourselves and others, which only causes more fear of being found out, more vigilance to keep track of every lie so we won’t be found out, which continually activates the stress circuits of our brain. Thus we slowly damage the faculties God has given us that are sensitive to the movements of the Spirit of God. We sear our consciences, damage our reason, inflame our bodies, ruin our health, destroy our relationships and in the end die isolated and alone.

Read second paragraph, “Our consciences function...” Gentiles show that the law is written on their hearts, how? What causes this?

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God’s sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.<sup>14</sup> (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law,<sup>15</sup> since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.) Rom 2:13-15

Notice the Gentiles, “do my nature” what the law requires—what does this mean? What kind of law can people do by nature? What kind of law can people do without actually being informed about the

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<sup>2</sup> Strong, J. (2001). *Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.



law?

Do people naturally perform circumcisions? Were the Gentiles circumcising their children? So, circumcision is not part of God's design law—it was something that was added later for another purpose.

Do people naturally pay taxes? So, the Temple tax was an added law and something the Gentiles didn't do.

Do people naturally pay tithes? So the tithe is an imposed law—why do you think God imposed a 10% tithe? Did God need the money? Could the 10% tithe have been a way to prevent corrupt religious leaders from imposing higher levies in the name of their god?

Do you remember how when God gave the instructions on animal sacrifice some people sacrificed hundreds or thousands thinking more blood would please God. Could it be that God instituted a 10% tithe to prevent people from thinking they could receive greater blessings if they gave greater tithes? Notice, God never put a percentage on the love offering—just the obligatory tithe.

So, if imposed laws are not kept by nature, what type of law were these Gentiles keeping? Design law, the laws of love, truth, liberty, worship, exertion etc.

I love this quotation from the book *The Desire of Ages* what do you think?

**Those whom Christ commends in the judgment may have known little of theology, but they have cherished His principles.** Through the influence of the divine Spirit they have been a blessing to those about them. Even among the **heathen are those who have cherished the spirit of kindness;** before the words of life had fallen upon their ears, they have befriended the missionaries, even ministering to them at the peril of their own lives. **Among the heathen are those who worship God ignorantly,** those to whom the light is never brought by human instrumentality, yet they will not perish. **Though ignorant of the written law of God, they have heard His voice speaking to them in nature, and have done the things that the law required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognized as the children of God.** {DA 638.2}

This is only possible if we understand God's law as design law. The moment we insert human law constructs this cannot be, because then there is some imposed rule, ritual, action, that a person is required to take before they can be saved. They must legally accept the blood of Jesus as their sin payment, they must be baptized by immersion, they must keep the Sabbath etc. But Paul in Romans denies this.

And so do we—we stand firmly on the truth that God is love and is the Creator of reality and His laws are the laws that life is built upon—including His moral laws!



## WEDNESDAY

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Read third paragraph, “Obedience starts in the mind...” What does it mean “higher authority”?

From where does genuine authority arise?

- Might and power—the most powerful are the authority we should follow?
- Position—pastor, priest, pope, president, God? Does authority arise from position?
- Degree/education—physician, theologian?
- Title—King, Queen, Prophet?
- Species—human, angel, deity?

What about from truth itself? Is the truth authoritative, and because God is the source of all truth then God is authoritative, but not merely because He is powerful, but because He is true?

The King of glory stooped low to take humanity. Rude and forbidding were His earthly surroundings. His glory was veiled, that the majesty of His outward form might not become an object of attraction. He shunned all outward display. Riches, worldly honor, and human greatness can never save a soul from death; **Jesus purposed that no attraction of an earthly nature should call men to His side. Only the beauty of heavenly truth must draw those who would follow Him.** DA 43

## THURSDAY

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Trustworthiness

There are two types of untrustworthiness:

- The malevolent sociopath who plots evil cannot be trusted
- The immature who means well but doesn’t possess the ability to carry out the duty—cannot be trusted

Peter in the upper room....

Read third paragraph, “Trustworthiness implies...”

## FRIDAY

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Read and discuss questions



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**SABBATH MARCH 3, 2018 CLASS** will meet at the **Hamilton Community Church at 10:20 a.m.** We will be back at the Courthouse the following week.

**March 24, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at the California Baptist University in San Bernardino CA, in conjunction with the AACC

**May 4-5, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentations at Grace Fellowship, York PA, in conjunction with the AACC

**July 27-28, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be doing two presentation at New Life Church, Colorado Springs CO, in conjunction with the AACC

**September 27-29, 2018:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Mega National Conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors in Dallas, TX

*In partnership with Come and Reason Ministries and Hixson United Methodist Church: **Mental Health Matters** Community Gatherings for Help, Hope and Healing*

### **The Developing Brain Thursday, February 8, 2018**

Environment, experience, and choice alter human DNA and impact brain structure and function. Learn how traumatic experience, diet, addictive substances, television, healthy nurturing and even belief in God alter our, genes, brain structure and brain function. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

### **Neurobiology of Depression and Drug Free Treatments Thursday, March 8, 2018**

Depression is a complex disorder with alterations in both brain and body, loss of brain volume with altered brain circuits and even change in genetic expression? Discover how you can minimize your risk of depression and make changes in your daily routines that can protect your brain. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

### **Addictions and the Adolescent Brain Thursday, April 12, 2018**

Adolescence is a time of marked vulnerability to addictions. Explore the brain's reward pathway, healthy activities which activate this pathway and how addictions hijack normal reward circuitry and damage the brain. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

### **The Mind- God's Design & What Went Wrong Thursday, May 10, 2018**

The human mind was designed with separate and distinct faculties to operate in a beautiful harmony. Something has damaged that balance and caused pain, suffering and illness. Discover God's design for the mind, what went wrong and how to restore balance to your mind. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

### **The Aging Brain Thursday, August 13, 2018**

What happens to the brain as we age? This presentation will examine the evidence-based lifestyle and non-pharmacological interventions which will protect your brain and diminish your risk of dementia. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings. Copies of Dr. Jennings brand new book, *The Aging Brain*, will be available.

### **Fix for Failing Families Thursday, September 13, 2018**

Families are under attack, more than 50% of marriages end in divorce, in the U.S. almost 900,000 children are victims of abuse each year, and 77% of childhood deaths are caused by one or both parents. Discover principles and practice to bring healing to your family. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

### **The Science of Belief Thursday, October 12, 2018**

In this seminar we will examine the science of belief and demonstrate how modern quantum understanding provides a scientific basis for the impact belief, including prayer, has on our physical health and can even impact the physical world around us. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

### **Guilt Resolution Thursday, November 8, 2018**

Do you struggle with guilt? Discover the difference between legitimate and illegitimate guilt and how to resolve each and how to prevent people from manipulating you with guilt. Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings

### **The God-Shaped Brain Thursday, December 13, 2018**

Our brains are in a constant state of flux. Moment by moment new connections are forming, idle tracks are being pruned back and brain circuits are changing. Discover how our beliefs change our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or turned off. Do your beliefs matter – more than you ever knew! Presenter: Dr. Tim Jennings