

Week of April 1, 2024

Focus: No More Excuses - Chapter 13

Theme: No More Ownership (Stewardship > Ownership)

Scripture Memory: Genesis 1:29

Overview:

“A steward in Bible times was someone who administered or managed another person’s property. Therefore, a steward didn’t own anything, but he oversaw everything for the owner.” -Tony Evans

Genesis 1:29: “And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food.” If you were casually reading through the Bible, you might miss a very important piece of this verse. After God had given Adam the command to be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the earth, he reminded Adam in v29, “Behold, I have given you.” Adam didn’t do it, but God did it. We didn’t get that job, home, vacation, significant other, children, or whatever without God’s Hand in providing those for us. Reflect on implementing stewardship over ownership this week regarding your time and other resources.

Daily Devotions (Scripture & Meditation):

- **Monday:** Psalm 24:1-2
 - God owns everything. Have you prioritized what He has given you over your relationship with Him?
 - What are you willing to give up so you can spend more time and resources towards building the Kingdom of God?
- **Tuesday:** Gen. 1:28-30
 - Are you willing to write down everything within your possession and acknowledge that it is really God’s? Why or why not?
 - How would that acknowledgement practically play out in your life?
- **Wednesday:** Matthew 4:1-11
 - Consider the absurdity of the devil’s offer of sharing ownership of the world with the One who already owned it.
 - How does Jesus combat the devil’s schemes despite having all the power in the Kingdom?
 - Are you tempted to own more and more of the world when it’s not even yours to own? How do you overcome this temptation?
- **Thursday:** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
 - If you are a Christian, you are doubly owned as you were not only created by God, but you have been redeemed by God as well. Why is it far better to be owned by Jesus than to be the owner of anything?
 - If what you have is His, how do you “glorify God in your body”?
 - Consider one or two other things that He has given you. How do you glorify God with them?

- **Friday:** Leviticus 27:30; Proverbs 3:9-10
 - Do you give first and not the middle or the backend?
 - What changes will you make to worship God more through your tithes and offerings?
- **Saturday:** Matthew 6:25-34
 - List out all the things that you are anxious about or lead you to worry. Commit those to the Lord today and trust Him.
 - What does it mean to “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” and how can you do that today?
- **Sunday:** Philippians 4:13
 - Notice the context of this verse (by reading vv10-12).
 - How can you experience the power of God today regardless of your circumstances?

Weekly Challenge:

Take an inventory of the things in your life. Commit and/or omit those things to serve the Lord more effectively.