Luke 19:11–27 says [11] As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. [12] He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. [13] Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ [14] But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ [15] When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. [16] The first came before him, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.’ [17] And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.’ [18] And the second came, saying, ‘Lord, your mina has made five minas.’ [19] And he said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ [20] Then another came, saying, ‘Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; [21] for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.’ [22] He said to him, ‘I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? [23] Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’ [24] And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.’ [25] And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten minas!’ [26] ‘I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [27] But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.’”

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

We are committed to expository preaching which is normally working through books of the Bible. Last year we did I Peter and this coming year we’ll do the book of Romans. We also do another form of expository preaching which is topical expository preaching. January of every year is the occasion for it at our church where we unfold the ministry theme our church is focusing upon for the coming year. This year it is lifestyle Christian stewardship. So we have been looking at this theme and the foundation of it through various texts of Scripture and this will be the last study on the foundational issues of the lifestyle Christian stewardship.

We started in the key text of I Corinthians 4 where the Apostle Paul gives us the essential objective of stewardship which is that it’s required of a steward to be found trustworthy or faithful. Then we looked at stewardship in real life by studying Genesis 39 as we looked at the most preeminent steward in all the of the Bible – Joseph. He was a man who was a steward for his father Jacob, as a slave in Potiphar’s house, as a prisoner for the warden and then in the palace of Pharaoh as he was second only to Pharaoh over all of Egypt. Then we looked at the steward of all stewards – our Savior for there has been none like Him. He was given a business
to do for the Father which was to go save His people. He did business, took care of business and all whom the Father gives Him He loses not one but will raise them up on the last day.

This Jesus teaches us about stewardship in the Kingdom and there are two key parables that He uses to do this. They sound very much alike. There is the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 and the one for this study in Luke 19 on the minas. They are different yet they do have some overlap. We started looking at this parable in the last study but we are back to it in this study because I left two things out that will lay out for us the foundation of lifestyle Christian stewardship.

The parable begins with a nobleman, a heir to the kingdom and he arrives to establish the kingdom but he will leave and come back to receive the kingdom. Before he leaves he pulls his disciples together. The reason Jesus is teaching this parable is one they are nearing Jerusalem for from Luke 9 to Luke 19 Jesus has been on a journey from the Galilee to Jerusalem where He will suffer and die for our sins. It is there that He will establish the Kingdom. When Jesus began His earthly ministry He said ‘repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.’ The Kingdom of God is not in its fulfilled state but it is in its initial state, why? It is because if the King is there then the Kingdom is there so He has come to establish it and at the cross He will defeat all of His enemies. Then He will go away and when He comes back He will destroy the enemies that He defeated when He came the first time and He will receive the Kingdom.

So Jesus is letting His Disciples and servants understand about the Kingdom. Most wanted the Kingdom immediately and they wanted a political, military, economic juggernaut kingdom. Jesus wants them to know it’s a spiritual Kingdom. He is establishing it now and when He comes back He’ll receive it. And while He is gone all of those who belong to Him (His servants/disciples) He wants them to do business. In this parable He uses ten servants and it doesn’t mean that is all He has. Ten is a number of completion like the Ten Commandments. It represents all His servants and disciples whom He redeems at the cross, whom He receives to Himself, who He will receive into glory and lose none of them.

Then the nobleman (representing Jesus) gives one mina to each of the ten servants and says to them ‘do business.’ Take care of business. Engage in business. They are to be good stewards with what he has given them to do. We don’t when this king/nobleman is coming back but in the parable he returns. We don’t know how long he was gone for it was unspecified. We don’t know when Jesus will return for no man knows the hour or time (Matthew 24:36). We are learning what we’re supposed to do in-between that time. When he comes back we see there are two groups of people while he was gone. One group is those who said ‘we will not have this king rule over us’ and the other group are his servants/disciples. When the king comes back that will bring accountability and judgment.

There are two aspects of this judgment. One will be for those who would not have him rule over them which will be a lethal eternal judgment and the destination is hell, the lake of fire. These are those who were in the books and they are judged. The other judgment is for those whom He has already taken that judgment and His servants aren’t those books for they are in the Book of Life. They are in the Book of Life because Jesus took all their sins on the cross and removed their guilt and shame. Romans 8:1 says [1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. But all people will appear before the Judgment Seat yet His people will not appear for the issue of eternal condemnation but for the issue of their stewardship.

Now all ten servants are not in the narrative but only three of them. One of them took one mina and made ten minas and the king says ‘you get to rule over ten cities for you have been
faithful in little so here’s much.’ Another took one mina and made five minas and the king says ‘you’re faithful in little so your reward in much is to rule over five cities.’ The third one was not a steward but a hoarder with his one mina. The servant said ‘I knew you were a severe man with strict standards so I hoarded it’ but the king says ‘then you’re condemned with your own words for your hoarding shows that you think you owned it. If you thought I was a severe man then why didn’t you invest it for me and I would have at least had its return when I came back.’ Then we find out this one who hoarded didn’t know the king like you and I can know the King.

We know the King who when He came to establish the Kingdom He died on a hill to save us and when He returns to receive the Kingdom His blessings upon His stewards far exceeds the results of their stewardship. There is a disproportionate reward and it’s clear that the hoarder does not know this King. When we are faithful in little He gives much. We see not only His graciousness when He comes to save us but also His graciousness when He comes to receive us as our rewards are far disproportionate to the results of our stewardship. We do find out that His servants do business while He is gone.

So here are the two things I left out from the last study. One is that this parable teaches us that lifestyle stewardship for those who know Christ is not an option but an assignment. Some of us think that stewardship is something that some Christians do well and others don’t do well so I’ll just think about that later. All ten servants got minas and all were told to go do business so every one of His servants receive resources from Him and all are told to go do business with those resources. We are to do the business of the Kingdom with the resources the King has given us until He returns.

Secondly, stewardship is comprehensive. It’s not selective or the bare minimum. They were given one mina and one’s return was ten and another was five. In other words, it was a full engagement to do business for the King in His work. So here is what we’ve learned so far about stewardship. The first thing we learned was the name oikonomas – oikos means house and nomas means rules which translated is rules of the house. Oikonomia is transliterated economy. It is a way of life – the economy of life as a Christian. We have learned five things from this.

One is that the steward owns nothing. You will never get to Christian stewardship until you get this first element. I realize the title of your house or car says that you own it but as a Christian you don’t. The Lord owns it. Secondly, in stewardship the Master owns everything. Thirdly, the Master allocates what each steward is to have and instructs us on where and how to do business. Fourthly, the steward is accountable to the Master for what was allocated to him and the fulfillment of the instructions. Fifthly, the steward’s objective/desire in the day of accountability is to be found faithful, focused and productive.

This isn’t a political speech but as I read this text in Luke 19 God is a capitalist. I’m convinced of this. What did the nobleman give his servants? He gave them capital. The first servant said ‘Lord, your mina has made…ten minas more.’ Back in Luke 19:15 it says he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. He expects them to take what He has given and be faithful, focused and productive.

At our church each Lord’s Day our worship has a thematic focus. On this Lord’s Day we did a confession from Genesis 1 and the reason had to do with what we are studying for in creation God made you to be a steward. God made man in His image, male and female and then God told them to fill up the place He put them in – be fruitful and multiply. Secondly, He gave them dominion over it – rule over it in My Name. You are a steward I have appointed over the
house I made for you to live in and it’s called the earth. He told them to rule and reign over it, keep it, subdue it, tend it, defend it and fill it for I have made you as My stewards in My image.

We see this running throughout the Scripture. We see this not only in Joseph’s life but in Elijah who mentored Elisha. Elisha then wanted Elijah’s mantel in order to be a steward of the prophecy of the Prophets. He asked for a double portion of His Spirit that he might be found faithful. This goes on time and time again throughout the Bible where God created us to be stewards.

It’s interesting to hear recent talks on climate change but as I hear it I’ll think ‘Oh that sounds good’ but then I’ll think as it goes on ‘I don’t want any part of that.’ My problem is that the reason I don’t want any part of it is because it’s always couched in some sort of pantheism, like Mother Earth and this earth is not my mother and time is not my father. This earth is my home and my dad and mom taught me to take care of my home. God made us to take care of the home. Subdue it. Keep it. Fill it. Have dominion over it. We are called to be stewards of the creation and of our redemption.

Paul uses that phrase time and time again to be good stewards. To elders we see in Titus 1:5–8 says [5] This is why I left you in Crete, so that you might put what remained into order, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you— [6] if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination. [7] For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, [8] but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. Stewardship is built throughout all Scripture and so is our redemption.

So not only is stewardship a Biblical concept but we were redeemed to be stewards. This is Christian stewardship where we are not our own and own nothing because we are owned in Christian stewardship by the Lord. He bought us with a price. We don’t have just any master but it’s Jesus. Jesus has allocated to us the resources of life whereby we are to do business for the Lord.

When I first got married I had to work three jobs and one of them was selling life insurance. My dad did it and so did my grandfather and I thought I ought to as well. My uncle told me to bring my stuff and talk to him about a policy. I stumbled and mumbled my way through and finally my uncle said ‘I love you but this is the worst exhibition of business that I’ve ever seen in my life. Son, if you’re going to do business then take care of business.’ That stuck with me ever since. If we’re going to business for Jesus then let’s take care of business.

Christ has instructed us how to allocate His resources in His Word and that’s why we go to His Word. We will be accountable to Him at the Judgement Day and we want to hear on that day ‘Well done good and faithful servant.’ We want to be faithful, focused and productive. We want to take what He has given to us and have made an impact for the Kingdom by His grace and for His glory. We don’t want to waste the resources or our time that Jesus has entrusted to us. That means we want to do Christian stewardship and it means He saved us to be Christian stewards.

We are not stewards to be saved. He saved us to be stewards. We are stewards because we love our Savior who saved us yet that’s not all we are for when Jesus saved us He has given us multiple vocations, multiple callings. You’re a discipler, an evangelist, an ambassador, a worshipper, a saint, etc. but one of the crucial callings is that of a steward for He has called us to take care of business for the King until He returns. We do stewardship not only because we love Him but it is permeated by Galatians 2:20 which says [20] I have been crucified with Christ. It is
no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. This is a lifestyle of Christian stewardship.

Do you know why everywhere Joseph went he was made a steward? The reason why Joseph was made a steward everywhere he went is because that’s the way Joseph lived – as a steward of the living God. He was given assignments for stewardship because His life was given to the Lord as stewardship. Therefore that meant his relationships, his resources and his responsibilities were all being stewarded unto God. We are to be good stewards in all of our life.

I’m still amazed to this day that my wife said ‘yes’ when I asked her to marry me and it has stuck so far for 51 years. I remember when I was first married and then converted. I remember waking up in the middle of the night looking at my wife there in the bed and thinking ‘Oh my, this is for life?! This is not the big date but it’s for life!’ I’m afraid to ask my wife what she thought when she woke up in the middle of the night and looked at me realizing this was for life. I wake up more at night now than I used to and I look at her now and think how little of my life I have left with her. It is a life and I’m to be a good steward of this relationship. My parents have already passed. I have three kids and grandkids. I have extraordinary relationships all over this congregation. I have pastoral relationships. I have relationships all over the place and they are all tied usually to my responsibilities.

God is outlying for me what I’m supposed to do as a husband, as a father, as a pastor and in all my other relationships. Not only in my relationships but He has given me resources through which to accomplish those responsibilities and relationships in my stewardship. He has given my time. We all have 24 hours in a day and seven days in a week. We were born into this world as God has ordained a finite set of sunrise and sunsets in our life. There is coming a day I will get out of bed and I won’t come back to it. Before I was born my days were numbered. So how do I spend every day I’m given?

As a pastor, to get two sermons to my congregation that is a responsibility and a relationship to minister the primary means of grace knowing that it’s through the foolishness of preaching that men and women are being saved. God has given me time to do that and for me that takes about 36 to 48 hours. Where do I find it? How do I deal with it? Where do I get? But once I’ve done it I don’t get it back. Ten dollars I can get back but I don’t get time back. So know your responsibilities, your relationship and your resources.

You have time, physical talents, spiritual talents and finances. You then use all these things in the context of your responsibilities and relationships and it’s God’s Word that guides you and gives you your commitments. I took vows as a minister, as a member, in baptism, in a marriage, in my commitment to do a job and in a court and that is stewardship that has been given to me. The same thing that is true of me is true of you.

In this midst of all of that we have experiences of blessings, adversity, sickness, difficulty, failure, opposition and we’re supposed to be a steward of all this as well. Joseph was not only a steward over the beautiful coat that was given to him but he was a steward over the slavery that was given to him. He had a kangaroo court with false charges and then was put in jail. When he first got into jail he didn’t go die in a pile or throw a pity party but he was a steward of two prisoners who he began to minister to. Joseph kept being a good steward so much so that the prison guard put him over the prison by making him the trustee of the entire prison. He was trustworthy as a steward in the pit and that is why he got to the palace. He was a steward over adversity, over traitors and all of his life and as Joseph did it how much more do we see our Savior do it.
Jesus was a steward in the Garden of Gethsemane when He is betrayed. He is a steward as He is lashed to the point of His life. He is a steward at the cross as He takes our sins upon Himself to save us from our sins. He is a steward in all of life and with your very life. So now I want to give you the takeaway and we’ll close in prayer.

Lifestyle Christian stewardship is not an option for it is a Divine calling, a Divine assignment and a Divine opportunity. It’s not drudgery but it’s an exciting journey. It’s not selective and you don’t minimize. It’s not ‘I’m a good steward because I give the ten percent tithe but the other 90 percent is mine.’ If you think that you have missed the message. ‘I give the Lord the Lord’s Day and the other six are mine.’ You have missed the message. ‘I give my marriage to the Lord but everything else is mine.’ You have missed the message.

God has given us multiple callings in the Christian life and it is an exciting journey as you see what God does as you steward tough moments. There was a 39 year old elder who stewarded the moment of the death of his wife as he faced raising four children and as he addressed it with grief that was informed by God’s Word he converted a young man who was watching him as he went through this. This young man’s life was converted and changed through this elder and that young man’s life was mine. So that stewardship goes on and on and on. Then in God’s providence 15 years later I circled back around and I get the opportunity to minister to those four daughters of his and their glorious conversions.

This is why John Piper writes the book Don’t Waste Your Cancer stewardly. John Piper writes about cancer as an opportunity to glorify God. So I want to ask you, do you own nothing? One day you are going to have to give Judgment Day honesty. Does Christ own everything? Do you go to His Word to find out how to do business? Do you long for the generosity not only for His redeeming work when He came the first time but His magnificent, astonishing generosity when He comes again – well done good and faithful servant? Steward it.

I’d like to leave you with this illustration that happened 16 years ago. At that time we were not doing Bridge to Life but Evangelism Explosion in teaching people to share the Gospel. Ann Alison was training some people and they went out to do visitation. They stewarded the names that were given to them and then they started running out of everything yet they knew the Gospel. This was a moment so they stewarded it. They went to an apartment and knocked on the door. “Hi, we’re from Briarwood Presbyterian Church and we’re doing a survey, so can we ask you some questions?’ There was a man who answered the door holding a beer with language I can’t repeat from the pulpit eventually said ‘Yeah come on in.’ There was another man there with a beer. After they asked about three questions they asked them if they could ask two more. One of the two questions was ‘if you were to die tonight do you know where you would spend eternity?’ One man answered with frivolity and blasphemy but the other man was quiet but then said ‘yes I do and I don’t want to be there so can you tell me how to get to heaven?’ They led that man to Christ. Then they noticed that they weren’t alone and they could sense someone else was listening. As the bedroom door cracked open a young lady walked out and she said ‘God sent you here. I’ve run away from my dad and mom. I went to a bar to get picked up and I was tonight as I was brought back here. I knew what was going to happen. Then you all knocked on the door. Can I pray with you and give my life to Jesus and go home?’

They were good stewards with their time even though they ran out of materials and names to visit. Stewarding in crisis, adversity, in challenges and all of life is how we do business for Jesus. I want to be a steward in and of His Kingdom because the King saved me and it is astonishing what we will do when He comes back – well done good and faithful servant. Let’s spend a few moments in prayer.
Prayer:
Holy Spirit speak to our hearts and do Your work in us. If you want to pray with someone please
don’t hesitate to call us here at Briarwood at (205) 776-5200. Lord, help us to be good stewards
of the Gospel, of our relationships, our responsibilities and to steward the resources of time,
talents and sickness. Give us joy even to be good stewards over challenges, failures, adversities
and sickness. Lord, we even want to be a good steward over our death. Whether by life or death
we want to exalt Christ so give us full orb of life and stewardship that exalts Christ – Christian
No resources – hoarded but all used, instructed by Your Word, led by Your Spirit to advance the
Kingdom, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Power Point
Lifestyle Christian Stewardship
I. Stewardship
• Steward owns nothing
• Master owns everything
• Master allocates and instructs
• Steward is accountable
• Steward—faithful, focused, productive

II. Christian Stewardship
Saved by Christ our Master to be…
Stewards who know and love their Master.

III. Lifestyle Christian Stewardship
Lifestyle of Stewardship
Stewardship of Life
Relationships – Responsibilities – Resources

Life Takeaway
*Lifestyle Christian Stewardship is not an option.
*It is a Divine
*Calling – Assignment – Opportunity