

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam  
 Title: Faithful Stewards  
 Text: 1 Corinthians 4:2

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(1 Corinthians 4:2)

“Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”

### INTRODUCTION

- To “require” is to demand
- To be faithful is to be loyal, true, steadfast or staunch
- The definition of a “Steward” depends on the situation
  - In our context, a steward is one who manages another’s property, finances, or other affairs.
- We are stewards of the Lord and faithfulness or loyalty is required or demanded of us
- God will promote, prosper and cause you to prevail over your enemies
  - Are you a faithful steward of your faith? Is your lifestyle a testimony of Christ’s saving grace?
  - Are you a faithful steward of all that God has entrusted you - your abilities, talents, gifts, natural or spiritual and your material possessions?
  - Are you a faithful steward of your life-your physical and spiritual life?
  - Are you a faithful steward of your environment?
- God demands that you be found faithful. As we consider scriptures, note these 3 words:
  - Promotion
  - Prosper
  - Prevailing
- The earth is the Lord’s

(Psalm 24:1)

“The earth is the LORD’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.”

- Man is God’s Steward

(Genesis 1:27-28)

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

God gives abilities, gifts and talents to manage where He places us,  
 Jesus taught on the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

- God’s eyes are upon the faithful

(Psalm 101:6)

“My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me.”

- A faithful man will abound

(Proverbs 28:20)

“A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.”

### EXAMPLES OF FAITHFUL STEWARDS

- Joseph was promoted as a faithful steward

- When he was taken from the pit and sold to Potiphar, he was a faithful steward

(Genesis 39:1-6)

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. 2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand. 4 So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. 5 So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field. 6 Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

There was no bitter spirit or unfaithfulness towards God or his brothers

- When he was in prison, he was a faithful steward and God favoured him

(Genesis 39:20-23)

20 Then Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were confined. And he was there in the prison. 21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. 23 The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper

- Pharaoh promoted Joseph

(Genesis 41:39-44)

39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. 40 You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.” 41 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” 42 Then Pharaoh took his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph's hand; and he clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. 43 And he had him ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried out before him, “Bow the knee!” So he set him over all the land of Egypt. 44 Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no man may lift his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”

- Jacob prospered as a faithful steward

- He made a vow to be a tither.

(Genesis 28:20-22)

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, 21 so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. 22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

- God gave Jacob a plan to prosper (Genesis 30:28-43)

(Genesis 30: 37- 43)

37 Now Jacob took for himself rods of green poplar and of the almond and chestnut trees, peeled white strips in them, and exposed the white which was in the rods. 38 And the rods which he had peeled, he set before the flocks in the gutters, in the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink, so that they should conceive when they came to drink. 39 So the flocks conceived before the rods, and the flocks brought forth streaked, speckled, and spotted. 40 Then Jacob separated the lambs, and made the flocks face toward the streaked and all the brown in the flock of Laban; but he put his own flocks by themselves and did not put them with Laban’s flock. 41 And it came to pass, whenever the stronger livestock conceived, that Jacob placed the rods before the eyes of the livestock in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods. 42 But when the flocks were feeble, he did not put them in; so the feeble were Laban’s and the stronger Jacob’s. 43 Thus the man became exceedingly prosperous, and had large flocks, female and male servants, and camels and donkeys.

- His father-in-law Laban cheated on him but Jacob was faithful so God protected him

(Genesis 31:4-7)

4 So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field, to his flock, 5 and said to them, “I see your father’s countenance, that it is not favorable toward me as before; but the God of my father has been with me. 6 And you know that with all my might I have served your father. 7 Yet your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me.

(Psalm 37:25) David’s Testimony

“I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread.”

- Daniel prevailed as a faithful steward

(Daniel 6:3 & 4)

3 Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. 4 So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him.

- Being faithful does not excuse you from having enemies who seek to destroy you

(Daniel 6:5-9)

5 Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.” 6 So these governors and satraps thronged before the king, and said thus to him: “King Darius, live forever! 7 All the governors of the kingdom, the administrators and satraps, the counselors and advisors, have consulted together to establish a royal statute and to make a firm decree, that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.” 9 Therefore King Darius signed the written decree.

- Daniel was faithful in his prayer life

(Daniel 6:10)

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

- Being faithful does not mean you are free from trials and troubles

(Daniel 6:12)

And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king’s decree: “Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” The king answered and said, “The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.”

But you have God’s protection.

Daniel prevailed.

(Daniel 6:23-24)

23 Now the king was exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he believed in his God. 24 And the king gave the command, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions—they, their children, and their wives; and the lions overpowered them, and broke all their bones in pieces before they ever came to the bottom of the den.

- Being faithful glorifies God

(Daniel 6:26 & 27)

26 I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end. 27 He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

#### AN EXAMPLE OF BEING UNFAITHFUL

Don't end up like Ananias and Sapphira who were not faithful nor had the fear of the Lord

(Acts 5:3-11)

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." 5 Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. 6 And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried *him* out, and buried *him*. 7 Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And Peter answered her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?" She said, "Yes, for so much." 9 Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out." 10 Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying *her* out, buried *her* by her husband. 11 So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.

## CONCLUSION

### A FAITHFUL STEWARD

- Will be promoted like Joseph
- Will prosper like Jacob
- Will prevail over his enemies like Daniel