



THE STEWARD INVESTOR

MASTERCLASS

SESSION 1



SESSION 1: INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 1

PREPARE FOR SESSION 1

Read **Introduction** and **Chapter 1** of *The Steward Investor*

Complete the **Discussion Questions** on **Pages 27-28, 40-41**

Review Videos:

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter 1: God's Oikonomos](#)

EXTRA CREDIT

Read the **Blog Post** [Batman and Financial Responsibility](#)

WELCOME TO THE STEWARD INVESTOR MASTER CLASS!

INTRODUCTIONS

- Who are you?
- Where are you?
- What made you want to read this book and join this Masterclass?

DON MENTIONED IN THIS WEEK'S READING THAT IT IS CULTURALLY TABOO TO TALK PUBLICLY ABOUT FINANCES AND RELIGION. **WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS?**

2 FOUNDATIONAL POINTS TO CONSIDER AS WE LAUNCH THIS MASTERCLASS:

Commitment - Are we fully surrendered to Jesus, committed to seeking first His Kingdom above all else?

Identity - What does it really mean to be a Steward?

1 KINGS 19:15-21

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

"With his animals and tools now gone forever, Elisha knows he cannot return to the fields. Having burned "plan B", he shows full commitment to God's call, no turning back! In not holding on to what he had, he made himself available for God to do much through him. Those who follow Christ half heartedly don't follow Him very far."

- Don Simmons, *The Steward Investor*, p. 21

REFLECT on the biblical account of God's call to Elisha. Recount any occasion that comes to mind in your life that is similar. Has there been a time that you didn't hold on to what you had but unconditionally, without fully grasping what would be required of you, made yourself available to God to do His will? How has that experience impacted your faith?

How willing are you today to submit yourself to God as his steward investor, with abandon, and with the total commitment demonstrated by Elisha?

Have you ever watched the TV series *Hoarders*? How would you define hoarding? **Does a hoarder possess stuff or does stuff possess the hoarder?**

IDENTITY MATTERS

A Steward Investor sees himself as both a son or daughter of God and as the Lord's Oikonomos.

Simply put... A Steward Investor understands that:

God owns *everything.*
We Steward *everything.*
Therefore, Steward *everything* **for God.**

Having had a brief introduction to the concept of a Steward Investor, **how does Don's definition compare or contrast with your previous understanding of stewardship?**

A STEWARD INVESTOR'S IDENTITY THROUGH LUKE 12

LUKE 12:13-21

THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" But God said to him, Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

What can we learn about our identity through the parable of the rich fool?

A STEWARD INVESTOR'S IDENTITY THROUGH LUKE 12

LUKE 12:22-34

DO NOT BE ANXIOUS

And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

"Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

What can we learn about our identity through this passage?

A STEWARD INVESTOR'S IDENTITY THROUGH LUKE 12

LUKE 12:35-48

YOU MUST BE READY

"Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more."

What can we learn about our identity through this passage?

Is BATMAN a guide for investing?



Who was the Best Batman - Christian Bale, Michael Keaton, or Ben Affleck?

Michael Caine was **exceptional** in the role of Alfred. **What can we learn about being a Steward from Alfred?**

"Advisors in the financial services industry define a fiduciary as a person or organization that acts on behalf of another person or persons, putting their client's interests ahead of their own, with a duty to preserve good faith and trust."

-Don Simmons, *The Steward Investor*, p. 34

The story of Joseph in Genesis is frequently cited as a great example of stewardship as defined by financial competence, sound financial management, and long-term planning.

How does Joseph's management of Potiphar's house and Pharaoh's kingdom help you better understand that stewardship is being a fiduciary of someone else's resources?

What was the ultimate result of Joseph's actions? What should the ultimate outcome from your role as God's fiduciary be?

CONCLUSION

2 CORINTHIANS 5:15

For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

Doesn't living for the Glory of God also mean we invest for the glory of God?

1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

If our entire body has been purchased by the blood of Christ, doesn't our investment practices need to be conducted to the praise of his name?

Personal Reflection: How has this chapter impacted your personal understanding of the breadth and depth of your responsibility as God's fiduciary?

IN PREPARATION FOR NEXT WEEK

- **READ** Chapter 2: Investment and Charity
- **READ** Chapter 3: A Dog's Bone
- **Complete the Reflection Questions** on p. 57-58 & 66-67
- **Review Videos:**
 - Chapter 2: Investment and Charity
 - Chapter 3: A Dog's Bone

EXTRA CREDIT

- Watch the documentary: Poverty Inc. (Highly Recommended!)
- Watch this video on Water4, the organization referenced in Chapter 3
- Watch this video on Dignity Coconuts, a freedom business referenced in Chapter 3