



# Walk by Faith

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:7**

## The Invitation

Faithfulness



## Series so Far...

### Invitation to Gratitude

- God's design – start with thanksgiving
- Not our natural inclination – intentional
- Resets our perspective, changes trust

### Invitation to Journey together

- God invites us to relationship, new life
- God clear about family life, gives instruction
- God expects your response, participation

## Invitation to Let Your Light Shine

- God's design – you would be seen
- God's pattern – redemptive in your place
- God's word clear – how to shine
- God's love compelling – none perish

Today – Invitation to Faithfulness



## 1. Foundational Information

### a) God's Intention – be active stewards

- **Gen. 1:26-28** *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth”*

**b) great clarity for God's children**

- Love Lord – Love others – Matt.22:36-40
- Be Seen & Known – Phil.2, 2 Cor. 5, Acts 1
- Servanthood Essential – Matt. 18, John 13
- Equipped & Empowered – Eph. 2

**c) reading Scripture confirms**

- created for stewardship, active role in life
- creator clear about our redemption & role
- responding to God includes participation



## 2. Biblical Backing

### a) Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

*<sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil*



and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear.”

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<sup>18</sup> “Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

*<sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”*

- stewarding the truth, growth is important
- hearing, understanding, stewarding truth brings great reward
- we have some responsibility for good soil



## **b) Parable of the Talents – Matt. 25:14-30**

<sup>14</sup> “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. <sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. <sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. <sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five



talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' <sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,



<sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? <sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'



- given talents – varied ability & capacity
- expectation – steward faithfully what's given
- there will be an accounting – what did you do with what was entrusted?
- clear – faithfulness brings reward and unfaithfulness brings consequence

### **c) Spiritual Gifts & Roles – 1 Cor. 12:4-11**

*“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*



*<sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”*



- varied gifts, from one source to each one
- given for the common good – used for others benefit, given away
- chosen by the will of the Holy Spirit
- empowered with expectation for use

### 3. Careful Consideration

#### a) Honest Evaluation Essential

- do my good intentions have reality tracks?
- pattern of review, keeping in perspective
- where can H/S reveal truth to me?



## **b) Review What I am Stewarding**

### **- Truth**

- guarding against weeds, deception, etc**
- preparing ground for growth**

### **- Talents**

- resources, natural abilities**
- role, capacity, influence**
- family, friends, community**

### **- Spiritual Gifts**

- discovered & deployed to others**



**c) Keeping things in focus**

- God will ask how I...
  - engaged in my times
  - grew, made the most of, intentional
  - responded to truth
- do I understand 'storing up treasure above'?
  - Luke 12:33ff



## So What?

### Invitation to...

#### 1. Review the Truth

- God's intention & expectation revealed
- My faithfulness in stewarding those things

#### 2. Repent

- To our Father for our wandering & failures
- 1 John 1:9 – faithful & just to forgive & clean
- To our brothers & sisters – carrying the load without us



### 3. Renew today...

- commitment to faithful stewardship
- excitement in heart – God will do above and beyond what we can imagine

### 4. Identify

- patterns that produce faithfulness
- people that promote accountability
- places to invest and steward