

Attitude makes us attractive to other people. In fact, while God simply loves us because His nature is love, our attitude attracts his attention.

God notices when we are faithful. In particular, God notices when we are faithful in our commitments, in our plans to honor Him, when we are faithful in obeying what He commands, especially when it comes to things like material resources and dollars and cents. God notices when we make good use of our time, our energy, our resources, our spiritual gifts, and when we are consistent in our friendships, our relationships, and when we are honest and forthright in our dealings with others. Stewardship has almost nothing to do with how much or how little we have. Rather it is entirely about how we use what it is that we have in our hands.

The example of Moses...

It wasn't what Moses had that determined his level of success (and even success in the ministry). Rather it was what Moses did when God touched the tiny thing that he did have that made all the difference.

So what do you have in your hands? Not much! Well we are in good company. All Moses did with a piece of wood, empowered by God, was to change the world!

The example of the widow's mite... How is it that two small copper coins amount to more than the sum total of all the gifts of all the givers totaled together to the Jerusalem temple?

The point is not what was given. Rather the point is what was given up!

It is the disposition, the attitude of our giving that calls heaven to attention. And a heart filled with faith with small resources earns higher praise from God than a heart filled with fear and many resources.

*Stewardship is:  
making use of God-given abilities  
to manage God-given resources  
to accomplish God-ordained results*

**THE ATTITUDE OF THE BELIEVER:**

Luke 10:25-37: The Good Samaritan: There are three attitudes. The first is the thief:  
**#1) What's mine is mine and I am going to take it!**

Most admit this is a lousy attitude! We want nothing to do with this; rather we reject it as evil. Still there are some who need correction on this one. Society has not been, nor ever should be, a free ride, in which someone else works and we take.

The attitude that we really need is that we are not owners of anything--we only own what God places before us.

*God owns us, and we have a debt of love to pay.*

**IF I AM A STEWARD/MANAGER**

- 1) Thankfulness
- 2) Master's Kingdom
- 3) Transient
- 4) Please another

**IF I AM AN OWNER**

- 1) pride
- 2) my own kingdom
- 3) permanent
- 4) please myself

**Attitude #2: What is mine is mine and I am going to keep it. (Verses 31-32).**

This attitude that pervades most cultures. It is there in the examples of the priest and the Levite. This is the only negative portrayal of a priest in the whole New Testament. They had rules to follow. If they came upon a dead body, it would wreck their week. They would lose their ability to work in the temple and they would become unclean. They see this man lying at

roadside. They do not know if he is dead or alive. Thinking him just about dead, they walk on, not daring to touch him because it would set their work back.

I have a duty, and I must keep it. What is mine is mine...

These are the kind of people who go through life hurting no one, and helping no one. The attitude, "What is mine is mine, what is yours is yours! I keep mine and you keep yours!" is a big improvement over the first one, but it isn't Biblical stewardship.

**Attitude #3: What is mine is God's and I am going to manage/steward it...**

Notice that all three sets of people saw the same circumstances. All saw the man on a road. One robbed him, two walked by, and the third responded to the need.

It cost the Samaritan to do the job. Samaritans were hated by the orthodox people of the day. They were seen as half-breed scum, and were treated like dirt.

**A Summary:**

Don't worry about what you haven't got. Simply use what you have, so that every part of who you are is handed over to the God who is Lord of all.

Attitude is more important than ability.

Attitude is more important than one's role in life.

Attitude is more important than the timing of the problem.

Jesus commands us to help! And that is the end of the matter.

**An Application:**

- 1) Identify someone with a need.
- 2) Eliminate the excuses.
- 3) Do it this week.