

STEWARDSHIP | WEEK 1

written by Todd Dekruyter

This challenge will focus on money. It's more than money, but money is usually the tip of the spear when understanding full-life stewardship. As Tim Keller says, "generosity and stewardship are about much more, but not less, than our financial resources."

Picture this: You just received a substantial gift. It is about 2.5 times your annual salary. That amount makes you nervous to invest on your own, so you begin the search for a financial professional. You go through all the hoops and appropriate due diligence. You call some of the professional's references and meet with him a few times. You start all the paperwork and start working.

A few months have now passed. You decide to log in one day to see how your account is doing. You notice some "unauthorized withdrawals." At first glance, it looks like he is stealing your money. Before you get too worked up, you decide to call your guy and ask what his reasons are. When asked your financial advisor casually says, "Well, our normal fees didn't really work for me, so I figured you wouldn't mind if I moved some more money to my account. I had a car payment due and needed the cash for a second home and . . ." You hang up the phone, your blood boiling, as you realize your investment guy is stealing *your* money. You are mad because your money is not his!

But before we get too hard on this fictional fraudulent advisor for acting like an owner when that wasn't his role, isn't that what we tend to do with God? Don't we tend to see ourselves as the ultimate owner of "our stuff?" Let's look at how God's view might differ from ours on this.

Read | What does God say?

Read the following verses (with the context if you have time): Exodus 19:5, Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 10:14, Leviticus 25:23, Job 41:11, Psalm 24:1, Colossians 1:16, Psalm 50:10 and 12, Deuteronomy 8:17-18, 1 Corinthians 4:7, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- What are the themes of these verses?
- What do they say about who the ultimate owner is?
- How might these verses impact your daily decisions?

Think | A Better Question: Which of these three questions do you typically ask with money decisions? And which best fits Scripture?

1. What should I do with my money?
2. What should I do with God's money?
3. God, what do you want me to do with your money?

Do | Try to meditate on these verses this week. Place them again and again in your mind. And begin to ask God what might possibly be the outcome of living in light of these passages.