



Your Life is NOT Your Life!

If you are a follower of Christ, then your life is not your own. Scripture reminds us that we were “bought with a price” (1 Cor 6:20, 1 Peter 1:18-19) and calls us to live no longer for ourselves, but for Him who died and rose again on our behalf (2 Cor 5:15). This means that our lives are to be lived for His purposes and for His glory, rather than our own. This mindset impacts the way we view all that we have been entrusted with, such as our time, our talents, and our treasures. These things have been entrusted to us by the Lord, and our desire is to be good stewards of them (Matthew 25:14-30).

A Steward of Your Time...

Life is full of relationships and responsibilities that we are all trying to keep up with. As a result, life is busy. But, busyness does not necessarily mean fruitfulness. We often spend our time on the wrong things, or reacting to the urgency of the moment. When we understand that our lives are not our own, then we will see that our time is not our own either. In fact, God calls us to make the most of our time (Ephesians 5:16).

- Do you have a sense of confidence that you are spending your time on that which truly matters?
- How do you decide what to say “yes” to and what to say “no” to?
- What needs to change about the way you currently view your time? The way you currently spend your time?



Mountain View Community Church
Defining Marks Sermon Series 2009

A Steward of Your Talents...

As your creator, God has graced you with unique abilities. As His child, He has given you unique gifts through the presence of His Holy Spirit in you. Your abilities and gifts don't exist for you, but rather for building up the body of Christ and for expanding God's kingdom.

- How are you using your gifts and abilities to encourage, serve, and build up others in the body of Christ?
- Are you being proactive to find ways to use your gifts? Or are you waiting for something?
- Who can you partner with who has complimentary gifts and strengths in order to reach out together in community to those who don't yet know Jesus?

A Steward of Your Treasures...

When Psalm 24:1 says that “The earth is the Lords and all it contains” – it reminds us of a fundamental reality concerning earthly treasures: our money is not our money! As a practical outflow of that reality, God's word call us to be **content** (Phil 4:11-13, 1 Tim 6:6-10) and to be **generous** (1 Tim 6:17-19). Being content means that we live within our means. Being generous means that we create margin within those means to prioritize what God calls us to. Specifically, we are called to give from the first-fruits or our income to support God's work (the advancement of His kingdom), and we are called to eagerly and prayerfully respond to meet the needs of those around us.

- How does your mindset need to change regarding the way you view finances?
- Why is the reality of Psalm 24:1 such a freeing concept once it is embraced?
- What keeps you from being more generous with what God has entrusted to you?

Motivated by Grace!

We seek to be good stewards of our time, talents and treasures, not to try and earn God's favor toward us, but rather as a response to His undeserved favor (grace) toward us through the gospel. Even though we deserved His judgment, He has chosen to set His love upon us, has sacrificed His own son in our place, has forgiven us all our sin, has made us His children, and has given us the hope of eternal life. As the amazed and grateful recipients of that unconditional love, our lives are simply an ongoing response of gratitude, worship and praise (Col 3:17, 1 Cor 10:31).