

NOTES: The Systems of a Steward

SERMON TITLE: The Systems of a Servant

Anchor Text: Luke 16:10–13

Support Text: 1 Corinthians 14:40

Series: *Built Like a Steward* (Week 2)

Theme: God can't pour new blessings into old systems.

Big Idea: God's blessings don't flow into broken systems. Before God multiplies what's in your hand, He examines the systems that hold it.

Luke 16:10–13

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own? No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money."

"In God's system, *faithfulness with less* is the down payment for *more*."

Before God gives *more*, He checks your *methods*. Before He multiplies, He measures your management.

1 Corinthians 14:40 — "Let all things be done decently and in order."

God never blesses chaos; He blesses order.

POINT 1: THE SYSTEM OF OWNERSHIP — GOD FIRST

Luke 16:12 — "*If you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?*"

Jesus is teaching: you don't *own* anything you're *entrusted* with everything. That's stewardship.

Psalms 24:1 — "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

When you live like the owner, you live under pressure. When you live like the manager, you live under peace.

When you put God first, everything else falls into order. But when you reverse that order, chaos enters your finances, your time, and your peace.

"I'm not the owner; I'm the manager. My system reveals who I serve."

POINT 2: THE SYSTEM OF SEED — THE STEWARD'S FIRST TEST

Luke 16:10 — *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."* Malachi 3:10 — "Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty. 2 Corinthians 9:6 — *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly."*

Big Idea: The tithe is not God taxing you; it's God *testing* you. The seed you sow determines the harvest you grow.

God says in Luke 16, *"If you're faithful with little, I'll trust you with much."* The tithe is where that trust begins.

Exposition:

- In *Malachi 3*, God challenges His people: *"You've robbed Me not because I need your money, but because you've withheld your trust."*
- *2 Corinthians 9* teaches us the divine economy seed multiplies, spending vanishes.

Application Points:

The Tithe is the Floor, Not the Ceiling

- The first 10% belongs to God that's obedience, not generosity.
- Generosity begins where obedience ends.

Sowing vs. Spending — One Multiplies, the Other Disappears

- Spending ends with consumption; sowing ends with multiplication.
- **Illustration:** Farmers don't cry when they plant seed they celebrate because they know a harvest is coming.

Generosity Breaks Greed

- Money doesn't make you greedy fear does.
- Giving resets your heart every time you do it.

"If you can't trust God with a dime out of a dollar, you'll never trust Him with a dream out of a destiny." "Tithing isn't about losing money; it's about proving management."

POINT 3: THE SYSTEM OF STRUCTURE — PLAN YOUR PRIORITIES

Luke 16:11 — *"If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?"*

"Ephesians 5:15–16 — "Be careful how you live... making the most of every opportunity." God isn't just watching how much you give He's watching how you manage what you keep. If your time has no system, your calling will have no fruit.

You don't find time; you *structure* it.

Truth: If your calendar doesn't reflect your calling, your schedule will sabotage your purpose.

Practical Systems:

- Schedule Sabbath before meetings.
- Block off time for family, prayer, rest.
- Treat time as a resource, not a reaction.

"If you don't systemize your priorities, your busyness will become your bondage."

POINT 4: THE SYSTEM OF STEWARDSHIP — AUDIT BEFORE INCREASE

Luke 16:10 — "Whoever can be trusted with little can also be trusted with much."

God doesn't promote potential He promotes proven systems. Before God gives you *much*, He checks your *management*.

"God doesn't upgrade blessings; He upgrades managers."

CLOSING CHALLENGE: SYSTEM RESET

Luke 16 gives us the question of the hour:

Can God trust your system?

If God poured *more* into your life today more money, more opportunity, more responsibility could your current systems sustain it?

Many of us have prayed for blessings we're not yet built to handle. God's not punishing you; He's protecting you. He can't bless what your systems can't hold.

 **1 Corinthians 14:40** — "Let all things be done decently and in order."

Call to Action: This week, evaluate your systems:

- Is God first in your finances?
- Is your calendar aligned with your calling?
- Are you sowing seed or just spending it?

Ask the Holy Spirit to perform a *system reset* in your life. Because if you fix the system, the blessing will flow.

"You can't live in overflow with a leaky system. Fix the system and the blessing will flow."