

SEPTEMBER 24

“I OWN NOTHING, BUT I HAVE EVERYTHING AS A FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.”

READ

1 Peter 4:10, Matthew 6:21

God lets us manage His kingdom, but stewardship is different than ownership. Stewardship is taking care of what's been entrusted to you. When one of my girls was little, she came to me asking if she could have my watch. I said, “No, you can't have it, but you can play with it.” She persisted, and I explained, “No, I'm the owner, but you're welcome to it anytime you want it.” She held the watch up to me and said, “Then if I can't have it, I don't want it!” That's how so many Christians act. We think God has given things to us and we call them ours, yet really they're His. They've been temporarily divvied out so we can manage them for Him. We get in trouble when we try to hold on to things. Everybody quotes this verse from Job: “The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away.” When He gives me something I rejoice, but there comes a time God says, “You've managed it for me long enough,” and He takes it away. We must learn to rejoice as much when He takes something away as when He gives something to us. And while we have it, may we be faithful stewards.

PRAY

Lord, forgive me for holding on so tightly to Your old blessings that I don't have open hands to welcome Your new ones. Teach me to be a good steward of all You place in my care.

From May 23, 2016