

**FIVE STEWARDSHIP
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR ADULTS**

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LESSON 1

Defining Stewardship

–Randy Tompkins–

Focal Passage: Matthew 22:15-22

Central Truth: To allow the students to recognize and accept that they are managers and not owners.

Teaching Aim: At the end of the session today the students will be able to make a list of the things that each of them own and the things that God owns.

LESSON PREPARATION:

1. Gather sheets of paper and cut the paper into small squares. Have one set of paper squares made out of yellow paper; another out of red paper; a third out of green paper; a fourth out of blue paper; and a fifth out of white paper. On the green paper print the words BANK ACCOUNT. On the yellow paper print the word VEHICLE. On the red paper print the word CLOTHES. On the blue paper print the word VOCATION. On the white paper print the word FAMILY.
2. Gather two baskets. Make a sign for each basket. One sign says THINGS I OWN and the second sign says THINGS I MANAGE FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
3. Enlist two people to read Matthew 22:15-22.
4. Enlist someone to explain their thoughts on the Pharisees.
5. Enlist someone to explain Christ's response.
6. Have at least two pieces of poster board or tear sheets, tape, and two markers available for use at the lesson time.
7. Gather mailing envelopes, pens, and blank sheets of paper. Have enough for the anticipated attendance plus a few extras.

LESSON ACTIVITIES:

Attention Pacer: Pass out five pieces of colored paper to each student present. Ask them to bring the pieces to the front of the room and place each of them into one of two baskets. One basket would be labeled "Things I own" and the other basket would be labeled "Things I manage for someone else". Do not define what own and manage mean. Leave the interpretation up to the students. After everyone has placed their paper into the baskets, remove the paper and tally the different colored pieces for each basket. Announce the results and draw some conclusions from the results. Relate these conclusions to our views about ownership and being a manager.

Purposeful Bible Study: The concept that should be presented through this study is that a steward is not the owner of something but the manager of it.

Ask two people to stand and read the scripture in Matthew 22. Person A should read (at the appropriate time) verses 15 – 17; 21 A; and 22. Person B should read (at the appropriate time) verses 18-20 and 21 B. Ask someone to tell why, in his/her opinion, this group of individuals approached Jesus. You may want to reference the following notes from Wesley's Commentary as displayed in the electronic Bible Navigator program:

Notes for Verse 16

[Verse 16](#). The Herodians were a set of men peculiarly attached to Herod, and consequently zealous for the interest of the Roman government, which was the main support of the dignity and royalty of his family. **Thou regardest not the person of men** - Thou favorest no man for his riches or greatness.

Notes for Verse 17

[Verse 17](#). **Is it lawful to give tribute to Cesar?** - If he had said, Yes, the Pharisees would have accused him to the people, as a betrayer of the liberties of his country. If he had said, No, the Herodians would have accused him to the Roman governor.

Notes for Verse 18

[Verse 18](#). **Ye hypocrites** - Pretending a scruple of conscience.

Notes for Verse 20

[Verse 20](#). **The tribute money** - A Roman coin, stamped with the head of Cesar, which was usually paid in tribute. —Wesley's Commentary

Ask a second individual to give their opinion as to the meaning of Christ's response. There is another teaching just behind the words that Jesus used. This concept is that the things we have in this world really belong to God. Our purpose for having them is to use them correctly. God does not abide in chaos but in order. A Christian must fit within the order of his/her surroundings. The laws of the land represent order, even if we disagree with some of them. Therefore Jesus wanted to teach that we should obey the laws, in this case taxes. But that even the payment of the tax came from God because He owned it to begin with. God owns everything. We are to be His managers of everything that He owns. We have material things (many or few) in order to use them for His work here on earth.

Practical Application: Ask the class to break into small groups and engage in a discussion of the meaning of ownership and the meaning of management. After the appropriate length of time ask each group to list their statements on the ownership tear sheet and the management tear sheet. Spend a few minutes discussing the similarities and the differences. By the end of the discussion make sure the following thought has been brought forth: ownership means the owner can do anything with the item he owns. Management means the individual must achieve the desires of the owner.

Follow-through: Hand out mailing envelopes. Ask each person to address it to himself/herself. Hand out a blank sheet of paper. Ask each person to write on the paper the items in their life they think they own and are willing to give ownership to God and become a manager of rather than an owner. Ask them to fold the paper and seal it in the envelope. Return the envelope to the teacher as they exit the classroom. The teacher should schedule the mailing of these envelopes to the students in four weeks so the students will receive them prior to lesson five of this series.

Conclusion: State "Next Sunday we will be studying Romans 12:1-2 and discussing the concept of Stewardship of Life. Many people may think this only relates to a proper relationship with God. It also means a good consistency of living." Close in prayer and give an invitation to come back next week. Stand by the door and collect the envelopes as people exit the classroom.