Stewardship Pt. 2

Give An Account Of Thy Stewardship

10th September 1995 Vin A. Dayal

Third Exodus Assembly ————

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Excerpt:

When God is preparing you for a service, designing you and gives you a place in His economy, then He calls you and reveals to you that service He wants to do in your life, and you are becoming interested. Now you are getting focused because you begin to see, "Lord, now I understand why my experience had to be that way." See? "What I thought was rough in life, was actually that preparation. Surely all things work together for good." Amen. There was a purpose behind it. "The footsteps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord." It wasn't within man to direct his own steps; it was God leading him. It was God guiding you. It was God bringing you from stage to stage. Glory!

When you see your area of responsibility then you begin to understand your stewardship. Because when we say 'stewardship', we are emphasizing accountability, responsibility in the position. Not just so much seeing the position and taking the position but responsibility in the position and accountability for you who have been put in that position. [Page 20]

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STEWARDSHIP PT.2

Give An Account Of Thy Stewardship

TRINIDAD SUNDAY 10th September 1995

Bro. VIN A. DAYAL

[#53 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To the Cross where Thou has died; Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To Thy precious, bleeding side.

Amen. Let us lift our hands and sing: Consecrate me now...

Consecrate me now to Thy service, Lord, By Thy Power of grace Divine; Oh, let my soul look up to Thee ...with a steadfast hope, Hallelujah.

And my will be lost in Thine.

Everyone singing now: Draw me nearer...

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,

Hallelujah.

To the Cross where Thou hast died; Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, To Thy precious, bleeding side.

Hallelujah! Thank You, Jesus. That is the desire of our hearts, Father. Let us bow our heads and close our eyes, as we look to Him in prayer; as we approach His great Throne of grace, knowing that He has promised we shall find grace to help us in a time of need. As we gather in His house today, and we come with great anticipations, knowing where two or three are gathered together in His Name, there He is in the midst.

We are so grateful for His visitation; we are so grateful for this blessed promise, knowing that He is faithful to all the promises that He has made. We can depend upon Him; we can rely upon Him today. He promised to supply our every need, even according to His riches in Glory. For what we believe that we have received when we stand praying, we shall have it.

So let us believe Him. Let us believe that we have received it because we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. He Himself is here to bring it to pass, to make it manifest; to make it a reality in the hearts and the lives of everyone that would believe Him and believe that He is true to His Word. These sayings are faithful and true. "Heaven and earth will pass away but My Word will never, ever pass away."

What an Absolute we can tie our souls to, today. Hallelujah. As we look to Him, I want to encourage you to believe. Whatever you have need of, you believe Him; you expect to receive from Him. That is why we are gathered together as we worship Him, as we sing His praises, offering the fruits of our lips; giving praise and thanks as we get in the Spirit. Just look on Him how He will move upon every heart and upon every life with His great amazing grace. Hallelujah. Thank You, Jesus.

With gladness, with joy, with appreciation, Lord, we stand in Your great Presence today. We glorify You, Father. Great is Thy faithfulness. We are so appreciative of the goodness of the Lord that has been extended unto us, of what we have experienced of Your great grace, and how You have worked and is working even now in our very lives, having this confidence that You Who began the work in us will perform It even until the Day of Jesus Christ, for we are Your workmanship, created unto good works.

Here, dear God, as we feel this pulsation of faith in our hearts to walk even closer to You, today Father, coming into Your house on this Sunday morning, coming into Your gates with praise and thanksgiving and with great anticipations for what You will do, Lord, and already sensing Your great Presence, knowing You are true to Your promise. You are here in the midst of Your people.

Oh God, and the songs the Holy Spirit is ministering unto us, oh God, telling us to be strong and of good courage. Hallelujah. Dear God, knowing that Your Blood speaketh better things, Father, (glory!) the very things that You have promised, the great Holy Spirit is here to give it unto every believer.

So, dear God, we look to You now, praying Father, that You will look down in this audience and, Lord, as You see the faith in the hearts of Your believing children, holding their requests, dear God, and confessing that You are more than able to do the exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or even think, Lord God, You will supply their every need, even according to Your riches in Glory, and Lord God, You will do something for them today, special, that will cause them to long remember this day.

Oh God, we value Your promise. We value Your great Presence. We value this great access that we have to stand on this grace, by faith, (hallelujah,) and to stand with boldness, with the confidence that has been given unto us through the Divine revelation, oh God, of Your sufficiency, of the completeness of the work that You have done on our behalf on Calvary, and that the Holy Spirit is here, Father, oh God, to break every shackle, to break every fetter, to open every prison door, to bring deliverance to every believing heart; to heal the sick, Lord; to open the blind eyes, to pour out the Holy Spirit, to lead and to guide into a deeper walk, Lord, into a deeper experience, that whatever Your children have need of today, You the great I Am, the great Jehovah-Jireh, the All-sufficient One will give unto them as they have

need of. We thank You, Lord, for great is Thy faithfulness. Oh, blessed be the Rock of our salvation. Glory be to God in the highest.

Move among Your people today, Lord. Oh God, may You tear down every stronghold of the enemy. May You break every power of darkness. May You cast it away from around Your children and may the Spirit of the Living God create such an atmosphere of faith and power, oh God, around them, that the Holy Spirit, Lord, going to work in their hearts, can raise them up that they can live by the faith of the Son of God Who gave Himself for them. Grant it, Father. Get glory to Thy great Name in the service. May Your great, mighty Name be praised today. Hallelujah!

May You remember even the strangers, the visitors; all that are within our gates. May they be eyewitnesses of Your majesty. May they hear Your Voice speak, Father, oh God, from the excellent Glory. May You reveal Yourself... [Blank spot on tape -Ed.] ...sirs, we would see Jesus. Hallelujah! Not to see a man but we could see You, the unveiled God, (hallelujah,) Lord, being revealed in Your Own Word that You spoke and promised in the Bible for this Day, (hallelujah,) and a Message of preparation. May that great Pillar of Fire that vindicated that Message, move again once more.

Father, may, dear God, when we leave this place today, we will not leave the same as when we came in. We love You and we appreciate You, dear Jesus, and we commit ourselves today into your service. The time that we have to gather together, we pray that it will be a great time. May it be profitable for us. May we benefit in all that You desire to give to us today. We thank You in advance.

Remember Your children in the islands and around this world, oh gracious God, especially our brothers in Princes Town and Cedros, Lord, the different places where they are gathered out; all up in British Columbia, Lord God, down through Tucson, Arizona, down through New Zealand, Lord, over in Kenya and Uganda and different parts of the world. Hallelujah.

We thank You, Father, for this great uniting time when the Bride is being united to the Word, and Lord, when You are on the earth fixing things, Lord, so Your children could experience great Rapturing Faith, great Rapturing Grace, making us ready for the Translation.

Have Your Own blessed way. Lead and direct us in all that will be said and done. May it be pleasing to You. May it be acceptable in Your sight. We ask it in the lovely Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Could we all say, "Amen?" [Congregation says, "Amen." -Ed.] Amen. Praise His wonderful Name.

Well, we want to welcome you all into God's house today. We certainly appreciate the opportunity to gather together and to be here.

I would like to invite your attention to the Book of St. Luke, Chapter 16, what we were reading on Wednesday night. [1995-0906 -Ed.] St. Luke 16, and we will read from verse 1. We were speaking on *Stewardship* on Wednesday night, and we are just making this emphasis while we are there at this time and we are certainly desiring to grasp all that the Lord wants to give to us. It is just different emphases to bring out certain points, but we are certainly staying right there with our theme where we come to know our placing.

Verse 1:

- ¹ And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, [who] had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods.
- ² And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.
- ³ Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do?

It was a strange time to think about that. He should have been thinking about that when he realized that he was so privileged to be given a stewardship, but he waited until he was called to give an account for that stewardship because it was his responsibility. Now, that is the time when people get into crisis, into problems, then they really want to kind of search their lives out, but a real believer walks steadfastly with God every day. Amen.

He said:

...give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

³ Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed.

He wasn't ashamed to embezzle his master's money, but he was ashamed to beg. Do you see how people could have shame for the wrong thing?

⁴ I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

He was thinking about his future state when he was put out of the stewardship.

- ⁵ So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord?
- ⁶ And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty.

Now, that man was not sincere. The man was owing one hundred but he was seizing the opportunity to become friendly with those who could be of assistance to him when he was put out of his stewardship.

⁷ Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore.

⁸ And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely...

Not because... Notice this, the man was dishonest, because the Lord called him 'the unjust steward.' He was not commending his dishonesty; He was commending the haste and the wisdom the man moved with, when he saw his present condition and he saw the danger of his future state. And so, he capitalized upon the present opportunity to make sure his future state was not as bad as it seemed at that time. He was preparing for the future. The Lord said, "Uh, huh! A state of emergency really gets some people desperate." Amen. See?

...for the children of this world [this Age] are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

⁹ And I say unto you...

He gave His parable, but watch how He is coming around now, because He had another thought. The parable was only a little channel to communicate something deeper. So He said:

⁹ And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends [by means of the money] of unrighteousness; that, when [it] fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

He was talking to His Own now, and He was contrasting everlasting habitations with the houses that the man would want to be received into. That was what was first and foremost: "I can't dig and I'm ashamed to beg." You see, that was the man's problem, so that is what made him concerned. That is what made him move with haste and wisdom. And that was what the Lord commended him for.

Now the Lord was spiritualizing that and bringing it over to teach His Own disciples. He was teaching by a law of contrast. He was taking a man who did something the wrong way and showed you a principle to do something the right way.

It was like when he said, "Doing God a service without it being God's will." He was teaching you how to do God a right service. He can teach us in different ways. When He teaches us, we understand what is wrong and we know what is right. We don't just get confused, that we think we know what is right and we are not sure what is wrong, neither. No. We know what is wrong and we know what is right after, when God teaches you.

So He says:

⁹ And I say into you, Make to yourselves friends [by means of the money] of unrighteousness; that, when [it] fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.

¹⁰ He that is faithful in that which is least...

This steward had wasted the man's goods and that was why he was cast out of the stewardship. So the Lord was showing unfaithfulness to teach faithfulness. So now, He is showing unto His Own, now.

¹⁰ He that is faithful in [the] least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

¹¹ If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous [money], who will commit to your trust the true riches?

So now, He was bringing the stewardship from a stewardship of natural goods and natural money to a higher stewardship of the true riches. Paul speaks of 'unsearchable riches'. He talks about, "We have this Treasure in earthen vessels." [2nd Corinthians 4:7 -Ed.] A greater thing has been committed unto us; a greater stewardship.

¹² And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's...

In other words, you have received something from someone. It is not your own. Because stewardship really means that you have been put in an office and were given the responsibility for your master who has committed to you that sacred trust. See?

Notice how Jesus here was picking up every point as to the illustration, as to the parable that He gave, and He was teaching His disciples something.

¹² And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's...

You see, a lot of people want authority, but first you have to be subject to authority in order to have authority. Sometimes God puts you under somebody and puts you under authority and watches you to see how you would behave, to see how you would conduct yourself, to see if you are going to serve for selfish means.

This steward was using his master's goods for his own profit. All the while he was thinking to advance himself, he was injuring his master's goods. In other words, "Where the cow is tied, there it has to graze." That is the kind of way people talk, you know. They want to profit their own cause on somebody else's business.

How we have problems with these things around this church for years. Everybody comes around the church for the Word and all of a sudden, they start to see, "Hey, So and So has this, or So and So has this," or "I can use So and So," or "I can have influence on So and So." And then the church becomes the place where they establish themselves, they build up themselves, they influence this, they progress there, they progress here, and then all that time they forget the Word that they had come for. See? If you advance the cause... That is why Jesus said:

...if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? ¹³ No [man] can serve two masters...

Watch the climax here. He was teaching them this. He was nailing it down now. He got His points and now He was nailing it down. He was a great Teacher, I tell you. Amen. He didn't go to any Bible school or anything, but yet look at the wisdom here. Look at the intelligence here.

¹³ No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.

He was not talking about love as emotion. He was not dealing with hate and love as emotions here; He was dealing with hate and love as principles here. I want you to catch that. Because if you love something, you would cleave to the object of that love, and you will refuse to stay away from that which you love. You will submit to it. You will yield to it. You will identify with it.

If you hate something, no matter how much pressure you get, you will refuse to submit to that which you hate. Under no circumstance, it will have control and influence over you. You will stay away completely and separate, if you really hate that thing. Amen? He is not dealing with emotions here; He is dealing with principles. See?

He says:

...or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.

In other words, your love will make you hold to it and not turn it loose; apprehend it; seize ahold of it and don't let it go.

...or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

'Mammon' is 'money'. The reason it contrasts with God here, is because it personifies money. See? It personifies it. He was not just dealing with the

physical wealth; He was dealing with what is in your heart. Amen?

So, let us pray.

Our gracious Father, the Word is so precious and so alive. It just stimulates us in such a way. The Scripture, Lord, was given by inspiration. How grateful we are to have Your very Own Words that we could read It out of a red-letter Bible, as It stands out as Your very Words that You spoke when You were here on earth.

Lord, God, when we see that we have It and we can still be taught by the Holy Spirit concerning the things that You have desired to bring to our understanding that we might be better representatives, that is the reason why we are here, Father. We are here that we might learn of Thee, we might know Thee, because to know You is Life Eternal. And that they, knowing You, might know how to serve You and to please You and fulfill, Lord, the responsibility that You have given unto us.

We fail, we make mistakes so many times; we don't see it as we ought to see it and we fail to capitalize upon the opportunities. But now as we see time running out and it behooves us to get more sincere, to know of a certainty, of a surety that surely we are walking in Your will and not presuming, Father, Lord, we desire that You speak to us expressly and write Your Words in our hearts as written with an iron pen, as it were. Let it be engraved in our subconscious that our lives may be governed and influenced by the teaching of Your Word. Grant it we pray, for we ask it in Jesus' Name, amen.

God bless you. You may have your seats.

I want to speak, and we are going to take this as a title on "STEWARDSHIP". And I am going to take for a subject: "Give An Account Of Thy Stewardship." That is what the man said: "Give an account of thy stewardship."

Stewardship is a very great theme as we have already seen on Wednesday night. And I know that to some of you, you were hearing, maybe not fully grasping as you should, and that was why I asked that you read the Scripture over, and I'm certainly looking forward that this morning that your minds are anointed with the Scripture because you've read It and you pondered It and you desire to draw the instruction from It. And the lessons that are laying here, we would like to develop and emphasize at this time that we certainly can know of a surety that we are walking in the revealed will of God.

A Christian doesn't identify their life by, "Well, I go to church, and I have a nice church, and in my church, we have a good program, and we have some nice people." Christians identify their lives by seeing the characteristics of God being expressed in their lives. They begin to see the Word that God promised for their generation being interpreted, and they see the fruit of that Word coming forth in their lives to know that they are a pregnated son and daughter of God. Pregnated, not with man's ideas but pregnated by the Spoken Word of Almighty God. That Word has fallen into deep, rich faith and that Word is coming forth and they are being made written epistles read of all men. People can look at their lives and read that and know that is the Bible.

They don't have to get a concordance and maybe get a computer program or maybe get a Bible dictionary and try to study to know if you are a believer. They look at your life there and they see a walking, living manifestation of Jesus Christ. They see the passion upon you. They see the earnest expectation in your heart. You are ready to give every man a reason of the hope that is inside of you.

They see your walk – holy, holy, holy unto the Lord. They see the fruit of the Spirit in your life. They hear your conversation and they know that you are

influenced from Above; your affections are set on things Above. They see your separation. You are totally separated from the world. "Come out from the unclean thing and I will dwell in you and I will walk in you, saith the Almighty, and I will be your God and you shall be My children." [2nd Corinthians 6:16-18-Ed.]

People see that inside of you. They know, "Wait a minute! This is a Christian here. Wait a minute! This is like what I read in the Bible. This reminds me of what the apostles were like, only I'm not seeing the physical Jesus but this looks like the kind of people who walked with Him in that first Age. This is the kind of people who have served Him down through the years. This looks like the kind of people that He is not ashamed to be called their God, amen; that He is identified with them because He lives in them: 'In that Day you will know I in you and you in Me." And that is this Day. That is the end of the Age. "You shall know as you were known."

Something is happening to you. Something is quickening you. Something is raising you up into a spiritual understanding. Just like when the Holy Spirit came to Moses on the mountain: "Moses! Moses! I AM come down, Moses. I hear the cries of My people. I'm going to deliver you, Moses." See? And it started to dawn upon him, "This is the hour of deliverance and God has chosen me to be the deliverer." See? And he was coming under the anointing of that commission. And when he went down there, God said, "I will make you God to Pharaoh, Moses."

And here Moses was walking down there with the consciousness: he was born a proper child. His father and mother saw something about him. They had such faith, they put him out in the Nile, believing that his life was ordained for a purpose; that Jehovah was going to protect him and bring him to the place of his calling, his anointing; his commission, amen; that God would fulfill his promise to Abraham saying, "I will

bring them out with a mighty hand. I will bring them into this land and give it to them for an inheritance."

So Moses walked in there. He wasn't walking like, "Well, I'm going to church," or "I'm trying to serve God." No. He knew he was fulfilling the Scriptures. He knew he was anointed. He knew he was born of a special birth. He knew he was called by a special calling. He knew he had met God; he had talked to God and God talked back to him. He knew what the will of God was. No man could paralyze his faith. No man could take him into a man-made program. Amen. Moses was walking there with that consciousness, with a realization that he was a son of God. Amen.

He went down there and he began to speak to the people and the people began to realize there was something that happened to Moses. There was a reality about him.

It was the same way with the apostles. It was the same way down through the Bible, because God cannot change. He does not change. He is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. God cannot learn anything. God is Perfect. God is Omniscient. He is Infinite. He knows all things. He does not have to learn anything. Whatever God does is perfect to begin with.

God is not like a man – He does something and then maybe, He finds, "I need to improve on this because I'm seeing some faults in it." No, no, no. It is perfect. Brother, it is good. The Bible said, "And the Lord brooded and He saw it was good, and He saw it was good. 'Let there be,' and He saw it was good. 'Let there be,' and He saw it was good. 'Let there be,' and He saw it was good." He brought His whole creation into existence. It is so wonderful – this great God.

Here we see that God wants to bring us to this Hour. This series on *Stewardship* is to crystalize our responsibility. We have been speaking a lot on placing; knowing your placing. "You were previously marked out by a design. You are predestinated unto the

Adoption," the Bible says – Ephesians 1:3-5. You are predestinated unto a placing in the economy of God. And so now, that is being made real to you. Sometimes as the revelation crystalizes, it doesn't mean that you are yet to be placed; it means that you are discovering more about the place in which you are placed, that you might serve more effectively in the place that you are called to serve.

And so, we find out that that is what is happening. He is placing you. And every individual here, as you believe God and you trust Him, we as a church and you as an individual: "Lord, I want to take my place. I want to fulfill my responsibility."

It is a great thing because when we speak of 'stewardship', we speak of a responsibility. The word 'steward' literally means, 'One who governs a household'. It speaks of the responsibility. 'The proper use and disposition of something entrusted to one's care'. Something that is entrusted to you. But there is a way to use it. There is a proper way to use it. There is a way to carry out the service of God. See? You do it in a way that is pleasing and befitting because at the end of your service...

Now, watch something. Before God could use a man in His service, He calls him; He prepares him for that service. The Bible says, "We are vessels of honor, (see?) set aside for the Master's use; prepared unto every good work." [2nd Timothy 2:21 -Ed.] He is preparing you. He is making you a prepared servant.

God said, "Who will go for us?"

Isaiah said, "Here am I, Lord; send me."

He had seen the seraphim, he had seen the vision, he had made his confession, he had been cleansed by Fire, he had been anointed; now he could go for God. See?

God didn't say, "Okay, boy, are you ready to go? Okay, you need a Bible course" or "You maybe need some correspondence course" or "Do some penance."

No, no no. He saw a vision. God broke a vision, sovereignly by revelation. The vision had an effect upon him. It produced repentance. He made confession: "Woe is me, I'm undone; I'm a man of unclean lips."

Out of his own mouth he made a confession when he saw his condition. He didn't say "I'm a special person. There is nobody like me. I'm so spiritual. I tell you, if God has to use anybody, it better be me because I don't see anybody that can compare with me who God could use more than me." No!

Daniel said, "My comeliness turned into corruption," when he saw the vision. Job said, "I abhor myself. I am dust and ashes." Peter said, "Lord, depart from me; I am a sinful man." They saw their nothingness. They became conscious of their littleness when they stood in the Presence of Almighty God.

So God prepares them and then He reveals to them their service and how He wants it done. Now they have a revelation of the will of God. The Bible said, "Those whom He foreknew, He did predestinate. Those whom He predestinated, it is them He called. And you are *the* called according to His purpose." He has some purpose why He has called you and He reveals that purpose and prepares you for that work and He sends you out in His service. Amen.

Then that responsibility, what He has committed to you, the equipment that He gives you to serve... He doesn't ask you to do a service and then you lack the equipment. God equips you for the type of service He calls you for. Amen? He equips you for the type of service He calls you for. Some people for a big service; some for a little service. Some for a local service, some for an international service; different types of services. But the thing is...

Brother, look at God, He made from an ant to an elephant. Do you think God might not be interested in a little ant? Solomon said, "Consider the way of the

ant." The ant is one of the most social creatures there is; most industrious, most courageous creatures. Sure.

You see some big dog come barking at you, you'll pick up a stone and say, "Get away from here!" That dog will put his tail between his legs and take off. Brother, you walk into an ants 'patch' [nest -Ed.] and here you are millions of times the size of the ant. Do you think that ant will back away when he sees a big, giant human being millions of times his size? That ant says, "You are on my territory. Get off!" Whap! He bites you. Oh, you scratch your leg.

Sometimes it stings you and you get so offended, you get a whole tin of 'Real Kill' [Insecticide -Ed.] and you wipe out the whole ant's nest and you destroy a whole civilization just because you got offended a little bit, and then you failed to even see you stepped on somebody else's territory. See?

God, the same God Who created the ant... Let me tell you, ants have communication systems. Have you ever seen a little 'bachac' [leaf-cutter ant -Ed.] how they communicate with one another, carrying a leaf? Look how industrious they are? They pick up a little cockroach or something, to carry there. They are storing food down in their colony. And you watch the size of that cockroach, hundreds and hundreds of times the size of that ant but they are going to get together and pull it and pull it and move and pull it and move and pull it. They are carrying it way in the back of the water tank, somewhere down in a hole but they are not saying, "Whoo! It might take us a lifetime to carry it from here to here." But they are so united in their colony. Amen!

One of the ants doesn't take off and says, "You fellows, do the work. I'm just going to sit back here," unless you are a supervisor ant, that is. You see? Ants have administration, communication; transport. Yeah!

Solomon, the wisest man said, "Consider the way of the ant." And when you are dealing with slothful people, he said, "Thou sluggard, consider the way of the ant. Learn a lesson." We are talking about being industrious or not; talking about planning for the future of the great mystery of the church. Learn a lesson. They know winter is coming. They have to have that Food stored. Co-operation; unity. Amen.

So you realize how God, in His variety, made these things. From a sardine to a whale, (see?) God laid it out there. From the little hyssop that grows in the wall, to the cedars of Lebanon. You see? Yet they use the hyssop to apply the blood. And yet the cedars of Lebanon were used to build the temple. Amen.

God, I tell you. Amen! When you look at the greatness of God! He used everything that He created. God doesn't have waste. Everything has a purpose, a place, a significance, a role; a function. Amen.

That is why we, here, the ones in His image and likeness with His Own intelligence, we will look and begin to grasp and understand, "What is my purpose, Lord? What did you call me for? I see the ant has its purpose. I see how faithful they are in carrying out their responsibilities. I see the unity among them. I see the co-operation." See? "I see the sacrifices that they make. I see the involvement; they are so involved in what they do." See?

One minute, a couple of ants are dealing with transport; he doesn't get mixed up with communication or try to be over in defense. See? They have their defense system, you see. They have their military system. They have those soldier ants. See?

Like the bee. You take the bee, as well. You watch and see, that queen bee, brother, they bring all of that royal jelly for the queen bee alone. Sure. And they recognize she is the queen bee. Like the ducks, they recognize, that duck has a certain honk. Sure. God in nature, friends.

What was God doing? God was reflecting His greater work by showing it out in nature; in little types in

nature. Before we had the Bible in a written form, man knew God by this same nature. That is why Jesus could preach and say, "When you see the fig tree put forth its bud, you know summer is nigh." John could say, "The axe is laid at the root of the tree. Any tree that does not bring forth fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire." They could see God in nature. Jesus said, "A sower went forth to sow a seed." See? "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a man who throws out a net into the sea." It was real to them.

Life wasn't just some little studious something, getting all theological in their mind. No. It was a reality that they lived every day. They walked in that consciousness; they lived in that faith. Amen! Hallelujah! They were so aware.

That is why the Holy Spirit is given, amen – to raise us up, quicken us; shake us from this humanistic realm and raise us up in the realm of revelation, where we become conscious of the unseen world. And we don't walk by sight; we walk by faith. We don't look to the things that are seen; we look to the things that are unseen; raise us up on a higher level, amen; a spiritual resurrection.

"You who were dead in sins and trespasses, had He quickened. If the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwell in you, It will quicken your mortal body." Amen. Is that the Bible? It is not just the Bible; it is supposed to be our experience as a believer. It is supposed to be the effect that the Word of God has taken in our lives. Is that right?

If you don't have that and you don't realize it, then you pray for it, then you desire it; then you ask God for it. And when you ask for a bread, He will not give you a stone. Amen. If you desire to know more of God, God will reveal more of Himself to you. He said, "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness and all other things shall be added unto

you. Be not anxious for these things. Isn't the life more than the body? Isn't the body more than the raiment?" Is that right?

Once a man could get His priorities right, once a man could get his heart right, once a man could get his mind focused, once a man could yield and surrender to the will of God; once a man could become conscious of his littleness...

When God is preparing you for a service, designing you and gives you a place in His economy, then He calls you and reveals to you that service He wants to do in your life, and you are becoming interested. Now you are getting focused because you begin to see, "Lord, now I understand why my experience had to be that way." See? "What I thought was rough in life, was actually that preparation. Surely all things work together for good." Amen. There was a purpose behind it. "The footsteps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord." It wasn't within man to direct his own steps; it was God leading him. It was God guiding you. It was God bringing you from stage to stage. Glory!

When you see your area of responsibility then you begin to understand your stewardship. Because when we say 'stewardship', we are emphasizing accountability, responsibility in the position. Not just so much seeing the position and taking the position but responsibility in the position and accountability for you who have been put in that position.

Give an account of thy stewardship! You don't say, "I'm the steward. I'm in charge." Hallelujah! "Look how God blesses me. God gives me everything. I guess God loves me more than everybody else." And you are living with your head in the clouds, and then one day God says, "Give an account of your stewardship."

Now, right now, the reason I'm even using that as my title, before we get through this morning, I want to show you, that is right now. That is the Message of the Hour. That is your call. Do you know why? We are

preparing to enter into the everlasting habitations. This is the Age, "You shall not all sleep. I will go to prepare a place for you and I will come again and receive you unto Myself that where I am, there you may be also. In My Father's House are many mansions." Is that right?

For the Lord Himself shall descend from Heaven. That is His Coming, friends, another Mighty Angel coming down from Heaven. What is He coming for? To receive a people. Is that right? What to? The everlasting habitations. The kingdom of this world is passing away. The world is falling apart, amen, but God has prepared us and now the earthly tabernacle is fixing to be dissolved. Hallelujah!

We have come to the Age of hybridization. Even the best of men, the food that they eat is rotting their body and their brain cells. Science has killed the human race with all their knowledge from the 'Tree' of the knowledge of good and evil. The inventions of peace killed more than the inventions of war. They cut down all the trees to build civilization. They built a great city and it produced more adultery and fornication and murders and everything else. See? They have perverted the ways of God.

They made the motorcars and they threw all the carbon monoxide until they warmed up the planet. And now they are talking about 'the Greenhouse Effect'. The very trees, they started to realize, were to keep the balance of oxygen (see?) and carbon dioxide and so on and keep the atmosphere just right, so you can breathe healthy. See? Then 'out of sight, out of mind', they dumped all their stuff in the oceans and now, even the fishes have cancer and different diseases through the radiation and living down there, and it comes up the food chain.

To get rid of all the pests around the house they invented all the aerosol sprays and all the insecticides and the pesticides and you spray up everything and say, "I'll get rid of those cockroaches once and for all, I tell you. My small spray-can couldn't work, so I got the pest control people to come with the big heavy-duty stuff to spray up the house." Uh, huh?

Then what happens? You see all those dead cockroaches lying down around the place there, the fowls in the yard start to eat them, it gets in the eggs; it comes up there in the human body. It gets in the grass, then the cows eat the grass; it comes up there. They kill the cow and they make beef burgers and *McDonald's* and *Kentucky* and *Burger Boys* [fast food chains -Ed.] and everything else. Oh, and it is so nice out there, but it comes up the food chain back into the human body. Amen.

Let me tell you, there is only one way to get rid of sin, friends. It is not going to come by science, but by the Blood of the Lamb! Amen. God had an atonement back in the beginning. Man is working in science trying to bring a better world than what God had made. Man is trying to give civilization an elevated... And even all these denominational people are talking about, "Well, you know, God just so loves us," and you know, they want to live 'high off the hog' [prosper; live luxuriously -Ed.] and all these different things and play themselves in a religious form.

What do you think it is? It is just more science. Now even the church got scientific. They hybrid the animals. They hybrid the plants. They hybrid the races. They hybrid the church, too. They hybrid the Word of God. They put all their creeds and ideas and their dogmas into the Word, and now when you preach the Word, it is a social gospel that makes a social man. He could still drink and smoke, still go and party; a woman can still go on the beach in a bikini and come to church on Sunday morning – is what they are producing.

But when you preach that real Word, friend, (amen, hallelujah!) that scorches, that burns, that separates

from sin, that transforms; that makes the old things pass away. Amen. Glory.

God still raises up God-called, God-filled men who don't care about prosperity and high living and all these different things; who could bring the Word without compromise, (amen,) to get a people ready. Amen. He's still the same, yesterday, today and forever.

Let me get out of all these little introductions, here. Amen. Glory.

So these are areas of responsibility here. A 'steward' – 'responsibility of the proper use and disposition of something entrusted to one's care.'

God gives you something in your charge. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. God gives you strength, God gives you health, God gives you time, God gives you money, God gives you opportunity, God gives you beauty; God gives you education. See? Education isn't so bad once you use it the right way; give it it's right place and use it the right way. Education is bad when it begins to exalt its own knowledge above the Word of God. Then that is a spirit, not just the thing you think you learnt, now. That is a spirit behind that now, that is trying to contradict what God said. See?

But Daniel and they had skill and learning. God blessed them and gave them wisdom, until they excelled above all those Babylonians, and they were ten times wiser than them.

Solomon was wiser than Darda and Chalcol and Ethan and all those fellows. [1st Kings 4:30-31 -Ed.] Because the Greeks and the Babylonians, they had conquered the then known world, and so, all the great learned men, (we found the Egyptians, we found some of the Greeks, the Medes and Persians,) were in Babylon and these places.

Then, when Solomon stood there with the wisdom of God, the Bible said, "And God gave Solomon wisdom

as He had promised." And Solomon, with his wisdom, brother, was far greater than all these men who went to UWI [The University of the West Indies -Ed.] and came out with their big degree.

Solomon right there, just walking in the footsteps of his father, David, (hallelujah,) stood praying, humbling his heart before God and the Holy Spirit came and gave him more wisdom than that.

Maybe Charcol and Ethan could have come and said, "Look, Nebuchadnezzar gave me this in my last graduation passing out. Solomon, where is yours?"

He said, "I don't have any, but let us sit down and talk a little bit. What do you want to talk about?"

Glory be to God in the highest! Thank You, Jesus.

It wasn't Samson; it was the Holy Ghost. That's why Samson looked like a little sissy with some curls. Samson was not a big, big, strong Arnold Schwarzenegger type of brute. No! That is brute. That isn't man. Those were the giants. Amen. Glory!

See David, David, a little boy there, brother, tore open the mouth of a lion there; slew that lion. He took his sling and, brother, cracked him right in the right place. God directed the stone. Do you believe that? Sure! It happened, friends. Amen. See?

When you walk with God, God will teach you a lot of things. You don't realize that man, when he was designed, when he was created in the beginning in God's image and likeness, God intended to lead man. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God..."

If a man could just come back to the leading of the Spirit, brother, it's finished. Satan is trying to take him by education when the Spirit was ordained to lead him. And that is only the perverted way. But if a man walks by the way God leads him, oh, it will be far greater. He wouldn't just have wisdom, but he would have faith with his wisdom. He wouldn't just have wisdom; he would have love with his wisdom too. Amen. He would have patience and temperance. Glory!

That is why when all those people that are full of education and have no character, they turn to crime with their education or they try to deny God with their education. But you watch, where the Holy Spirit is behind that education, It brings that life in the Word and It centers you to Christ; becomes a Christ-centered life – a life that lives for the glory of God. Do you believe that? Amen. Okay.

So, we are finding what a steward is. So God, whether you have time... Some of you may have more time than others right now: no children; no demanding responsibility in the natural world. See? Why? And you let all that time go idle and go to waste, and you fail to realize what a valuable opportunity has been presented to you and how it could be used to further the Kingdom of God.

But sometimes you eat the bread of idleness and you sit down there and you are just day-dreaming out there and you start to get bored with time and God needs so many people who have a little time, where you could even go and pray for others, pray for the church; testify to the glory of God. Amen. Do something profitable for the Message of the Hour, for the advancement of the Church and the work of God; something that could help. Like Dorcas, she helped the poor with her sewing and all these things. Is that right? See? The steward will have to give an account for that time, why you wasted it like that.

See, people get little complexes and they say, "Well, I'm this way. I guess, I'm just this way." They make God look weak. They make the Kingdom of God look disorganized. They make God look like some ordinary man struggling to keep His Word together.

When you see the greatness of God, friends, whatever God has given you: "I can use this as a weapon against the kingdom of the enemy." Amen! He equips you with something.

We never even knew that beauty... You see, God gives people beauty. Who made Lucifer the most shining one? Who gave him the name that meant the 'shining one'? Who gave the Serpent his gift to speak? But look what he yielded it to. Who gave Lucifer his beauty? Look how he let it corrupt him. Do you think God gave him the beauty to let it corrupt him? God give him the beauty, brother, because it was an exalted position for the service of God. [Blank spot on the tape-Ed.]

...face. Next thing she gets taken up with Hollywood, her mind is blown; she is only watching her figure all day. She can't get... She wants to wear a bathing suit, but you can't wear one in the Message, so she starts to make her dresses tight. She starts to show her form. She tries to walk a certain way. And not one day she wants to use it for the King, but she wants to use it to make other people lust at her.

Do you think God wants to give a young woman beauty to make her cause her brother to lust and draw her brother's attention to her body? That is why you see Satan designed all those kinds of stockings with all those kinds of little embroidered things there. Why? It is to attract attention to a certain part of the body. Exactly.

Why do they put slits in dresses in certain places, this long? [Bro. Vin indicates the length of the slit -Ed.] It is to play on the imagination. Sure. See? But people sit there and they open up their mind to all this filth from Hollywood and they fail to see the subtlety behind it because they are ignorant of the devices of the Devil behind fashion-designing. Amen?

We aren't getting on anybody; we are getting down on the Devil. Thank You, Jesus. We are not picking on anybody here this morning. Amen. We are talking about stewardship. We are talking about responsibility. Amen. Glory. We are just trying to see how good and faithful a steward we can be.

Jesus told the man, "Give an account of your stewardship." Because it is required of stewards to give an account of the stewardship that they have been entrusted with. Because the principle of getting the greater things is being faithful in the lesser things. The lesser things are a training ground for greater things.

People never understood that in life, so God holds them in a certain condition for a certain season: they are vexed, they are puffed up, they are pouting; they are comparing themselves with other people, they find they are so unfortunate, they want to commit suicide, they are going through pressure, they are under stress and nervous strain and everything else, when God has a greater place for them.

"They that humble themselves shall be exalted." Jesus taught that. He said, "When you go to a feast, you don't go straight to the high place and sit." Next thing, the lord of the feast says, "Look Bro. So and So. Come up here." He says to you, "Move from here. Do you mind?" He calls somebody else and gives them the upper place. He said, "If you now choose the lower place, then when he comes, he'll say, "Hey, is that you over there? Come here. You could stay here." He said, "Oh, you'll get honor among the people." Amen. You have been singled out for Divine attention and blessing and placing. Thank You, Jesus. Oh, hallelujah! My. It's marvelous the way God works.

Long ago a teacher was identified as a man who taught about life. Today a teacher is a man who spends his life trying to discover a stone. And when he is done, after he lives out his whole life, he comes with a certain rock and says, "I think this rock here is about nine billion years old and it started somewhere," you know. He spent all his life behind a rock. And then he is still guessing now that he became an old man, and nobody is going to go on that. He can't help humanity in any way; couldn't even help himself; couldn't just be contended that God created the

heavens and the earth, period, amen; thought it into existence, and put his mind on the Creator instead of the creation. Glory! My.

Let us try to make some progress here. You are called to give an account. Now, 'account' is a big word, friend. What are we trying to emphasize in this stewardship? We talked about you 'seeing' your place, then you learn to fight to take the place that has been revealed to you as your inheritance; your place; your channel.

Now you are in that place. Now you begin to see your place, now you begin to occupy your place, now you drive out and break down and you clean up all the channels so you can live and you could dwell in that place with all things under your feet, well, then you have to give an account. God wouldn't just bring you in that place, and use you in that place and you would not have to give an account. You will give an account in that place, because in that place, opportunities come your way, certain directions in service come to you; is communicated to you; certain responsibilities must be fulfilled for the Kingdom of God in that place.

Sometimes God... You are thinking about a job and God opens up that job for you. Sure, it is going to bring a natural benefit with some natural money for you, but God is really putting you in a place where you are going to meet certain people that you can give the witness of the Gospel.

You say, "Well, give me Bible for that." Look at Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. Is that right? God had to remove Philip from all these places here. It looked like all his glory was being taken away. The man went down and started a whole revival; demons were being cast out, left and right. Simon, the sorcerer, who had the whole city spellbound, was even accepting what Philip was preaching, and everything else, though he didn't fully understand it; (is that right?) trying to make commercial gain off of it and everything else. But

Philip was transported out to one man. God wanted him to talk to that Minister of Finance, because God was interested in taking the Message to Ethiopia. Exactly right.

So sometimes God moves you around to get you in places where you can be of benefit to His Kingdom. But sometimes a person only sees the promotion. They only see the profit. They only see the natural benefit and they get blinded from God's purpose in moving them around in these places, so they fail to honor God by the leading of His Spirit and they block out the wisdom of God that is ordering their steps.

When the believer is saying, "Lord, why do You have me here? I know there is a reason but I am not getting it. Because I know You don't do anything just like that, and I don't want to miss it if You put me here, Lord. I want to know why You put me here. Maybe, it is somebody that is in need, and if You would use me for Your Kingdom, take my eyes off of this benefit, let me get taken out of this competition and striving for promotion over here or somewhere. Let me just honor You with my presence here. Let me give a testimony here. Let me give an influence. Because You can take a man out of the dungeon and put him on the throne, if You want."

God did that in the time of Joseph and God did that in the time of Mandela [Nelson Mandela - former President of South Africa -Ed.] the same way. The man that the system hated the most, locked away the farthest and deepest, put in the most isolation, brother, the man came right on the throne in the country. The man who, maybe, his family couldn't get to see him, now the Queen of England, the President of the United States, everybody wants to see the man. Is that right?

The Bible is no history Book, friend; the Bible is a real Book. It is a reality! That same God lives! Amen. Glory. That God is still True, still as great as He ever

is; still works the same way. We just need to get in the Spirit and believe Him and have faith. Amen.

'Account', that is a big word. Big in meaning, big in responsibility – account. Have you ever heard about an accountant? An accountant is a man who keeps audits. See? He examines people's records. He checks out the records with a fine-tooth comb to make sure there are accurate records there. Is that right? He is an inspector. An auditor goes through; he follows trails in numbers. He is designed to be very meticulous, very conspicuous. He finds things, you know, where people leave a fake paper trail to detour you. He can see the cut-off there; he can see the turn around here. He can catch, "This is a smart guy."

How do you think they find money laundering and these things? Oh, sure. You get those fellows there, they are anointed with eagle vision, details – an accountant. See?

If an accountant has to be that way and you have to give an account... An accountant is one who has to give an account, you know. In the natural sense, we are talking about the profession. But we are taking the word now, and you, giving an account.

'Account' means, 'a record of events'. See? "He gave a good account of what happened." In other words, he put in all the right details.

Remember in the story when they used to run with the message? That was the form of communication back in those days. And Ahimaaz wanted to run when Absalom got killed.

He said, "Let me run, let me run; I can run fast. I got a new *Nike*." Right now... "It is an *Air Nike* too." He said, "And I have on this *Nike* track pants here; I'm ready to run."

Joab said, "Relax yourself, sir. You will bear tidings another day. Not today."

See? He put him in a course. Then the Cushite comes.

He said, "You run." But Ahimaaz wanted to run, so he said, "Okay, run."

So he's coming, he's coming. Boy, I tell you, that *Nike* had speed. There was something about it. The man reached first and David said, "That looks like Ahimaaz coming. Whoo! That is speed communication. Let me get the details of the news here now. Let me see... What happened?"

He said, "Something happened. It was a great tumult. I don't know what happened but a lot of people were excited. Like a riot was taking place. I tell you, people were everywhere!"

David said, "Move aside." When the Cushite came running in, (amen,) David asked, "What's the tidings?"

He said, "Would to God that every one of the king's enemies be like the young man."

Brother, he said it all, to the point! David knew what happened. David started to bawl and cry because He knew exactly that Absalom was killed.

The man had details in his communications. The man communicated the right things. He had something that could edify the king, that could give the king insight, that could give the king an awareness and a perception of what took place, amen, that the king could start to prepare for the funeral and start to plan for the future and do whatever he has to do. He knew what was happening just by the communication that he received.

To give an account means: 'an answer or an explanation in reference to judgment'.

He said, "I want somebody to give me an account of how this thing took place right here." See? "You are not going to leave this place until we get this thing settled. You were in this office; you are responsible for it. Let me hear you."

A man stands up there and said, "Well, you know..." He said, "What time did this thing take place?" "I don't know."

"On what day?"

"I don't know."

"Are you working here and you are not conscious in the workplace? What are you coming here for? Do you think here is a vacation? Is here a Holiday Inn? Is here the Hilton Hotel? Is here the golf course? Are you coming here in an atmosphere to relax and just for pleasure? You came here for business. You have a responsibility. You don't work with eye-service here."

Amen. Sure, friends. Let me tell you something. You see, people take a Christian life just to mean, "Hallelujah! Jesus saved me. Thank You, Jesus."

We are going to find out, He will say, "I never knew you. Depart from Me, you workers of iniquity."

They will say, "Lord, didn't I preach in Your Name? Didn't I prophesy? Didn't I speak in tongues? Didn't I do these things?"

When a man came, he buried his talent, too. He said, "Thou unprofitable servant. Cast him into outer darkness!" Is that right?

Christianity is responsibility. Look at Jesus: "I must be about My Father's business." Look at the life of Christ: "What shall I say? Father, save me from this hour?" [St. John 12:27 -Ed.] He didn't try to evade pressure. He didn't try to get popular. When they were going to stone Him and reject Him, He said, "The Son of Man is going to go into Jerusalem. They are going to conspire against Him. They are going to falsely accuse Him, they are going to persecute Him; they are going to kill Him!" Is that right? "But I have to go anyhow. I must be about My Father's business."

At one time they tried to make Him a king and He said, "If My Kingdom was of this world, then would My servants fight. My Kingdom is not of this world. Pray, Thy Kingdom come." Is that right?

He didn't just try to take temporary popularity or temporary power. No, sir! He was responsible to the Word: "My meat [desire -Ed.] is to do the will of Him that

sent Me and to finish His work." He said, "I must be about My Father's business." He said, "Can't you tarry with me for one hour?" The Bible said that He didn't even have time to eat sometimes; He went up on the mountain and prayed all night, and the next day were the meetings. Why? He said, "There are many other cities that I must go and preach the Word also. A Sower went forth to sow. I have to plant the Seed."

He knew He had to be in there. The third Passover that He went in there, it was finished. He knew, "That is the third Passover coming around." The Bible said, "He steadfastly set His face towards Jerusalem." He made every minute, every opportunity He had count.

They invited Him to a dinner; He sat there. The Bible said, "He observed them how they were coming to dinner. He observed them, what places they went to and He started to preach, 'The Kingdom of God is like a man who gave a supper." Hallelujah! He didn't lose an opportunity. He didn't care whether the Message was going to make Him unpopular. Brother, He knew He had to redeem the time. He had to lay the Message. He had to pierce their consciences. He had to get them under conviction. He had to get a people ready for the Holy Ghost that He was making available.

When you don't serve God in that kind of frame of mind and you serve God: "Well, I don't think I'm going up today. The church is up there but I don't like how hard he preaches. We don't have anything to do up there. I find we should have a little bingo. The Minister is against beach parties. The Minister is against blocko." [Street party -Ed.] The Minister has a corral with sheep, not a pig pen. [Congregation rejoices -Ed.] Glory! Amen. The dove is on a different diet to the crow. Amen.

To give an account of oneself. It means: 'to be held answerable for; to act in a creditable manner'. You say, "He gave a good account of himself. His actions are very creditable. He is reliable. When he says that he is

coming on time, he is coming on time." When he says that we are going to have that by Friday, there is a very legitimate excuse, if Friday comes, and that does not turn up. It has to be a matter of life and death, because he doesn't make rash decisions. He is honest and will tell you if he can't do it. He can't give you a time; he'll try his best. He is honest in his dealings. Am I going alright?

'Accountable' means, 'to be answerable for something'. The man is going to be held answerable for his stewardship. He will have to act in a creditable manner in disposing his duties; his responsibilities. He has to show faithfulness and wisdom in carrying out his duties so that his lord could say, "Well done." Because the lord who knows "Well done," knows how to do it well. Amen. "Well done," is not just poetic language. That is, "It was thoroughly done. This wasn't done half-way at all. This was not done with eye-service."

Like when the man walked in here, he said... He watched every piece of wood, where it was joined. He watched *this*; he watched *that.* He said, "Boy, this place was built with love." He is a workman and he has an eye for detail. And though he had not met the workmen personally as yet, but in seeing the work, he knew what type of workmen would produce that type of work.

I'm still in the attitude here, before we get to stewardship, what a steward possesses; the characteristics of a steward – whether it is time God gave you; whether it is children God gave you. Some people see children, they wish they had five cars instead of five children. Amen?

You know, I was thinking the other day... We have some farmers and some mechanics here, so maybe I could say this. You know, I like to look at farmers. You watch those farmers, they have patience with botany life. They get there and they burn that whole field and

they weed it up and everything else, and then plow it up. They get their seeds and they put it in just right.

Then sometimes, the sun gets so hot. Brother, rain is not falling. They are going to go and get water. They are going to walk a distance; they are going to 'tote' [carry -Ed.] that water and bring that water directly to the plant, because they value the seed that they put in. They value their labor, and their time, and their energy that they spend behind that field.

Then when it begins to come up, brother, sometimes birds come at it, sometimes worms, sometimes bugs. And they are so determined to bring forth that crop, they declare war on birds. They don't care how nice the bird is. A parakeet you can eat, but if it is a blackbird you can't eat it. Whether it is a parakeet or a blackbird, they'll throw a big stone: "Move out of here!" Why? They are zealous in protecting... Get it. I'm bringing a thought here. They are zealous in protecting the life that they feel responsible for since they had planted it; since they had sown it in that womb. Are we getting somewhere now? Alright.

He doesn't get angry every time he sees a bug has eaten down a part of a leaf or a bird picking off a blossom, or something. He doesn't get vexed and root up all the plants and throws it out of the garden: "Get out!" Uh, uh! [Meaning, "No." -Ed.] He declares war on the birds, not the plant. He will do everything to protect and nurture that life of that plant. If he has to build a hedge and put sticks around it, he will build a hedge and put sticks around it. If he has to put a big scarecrow to scare the birds off, he is going to put it. Anything that he could see, he is watching, to protect that life, to preserve that life, to nurture that life, to nourish that life, to make sure it comes forth because he planted that in the womb of the earth. See?

Then you watch the same people, plant another type of seed in another womb, in another earth and their children are coming up. Next thing the child begins to do *this*, or some 'bird' begins to pick off—'fowls of the air' begin to interfere with the child. Some demon spirits begin to hamper the child, pull it this way, eat off the 'leaves' that they don't want to come to church. See? Fellowship – leaves. You see?

Then when you should put a hedge, or put a scarecrow, or try to nurture the life, brother, it is 'buff' [scolding -Ed.] and throwing them out of the house and everything else. You say, "Wait a minute. This man loves botany life more than human life? This man doesn't realize his calling; that his classroom is his garden. But it is in there he is learning the wisdom of God. It is there he is learning the principles of seeing life come from seed to full development. He is investing more time, energy, interest, money, everything; even seeking brothers to come and help: "Come, help me get this field going."

Sometimes we need to get a prayer meeting; some brothers come and let us have a prayer meeting: "I have some 'birds' interfering with my 'crops' over here. Let us pray these demons out. Let us get this place charged-up." Amen. "I'm responsible for this crop of children that God gave me that I call my family."

You see it every day. It's all around you. Who can deny it? People need to take a look at themselves. That is why they live in a church life, in a church realm and they don't understand the value of placing; the revelation of placing. They don't understand these lessons that are being brought to teach them the ways of God and to bring them into a real relationship. If they were catching it right, then they would be able to relate to it.

That is why I was saying the other day, we have a carnal concept of some natural things. "Yeah, well a man stole my things in my garden. I was about to get vex, but I remembered that is my position so I kind of kept myself humble and..." Uh, Uh! [Meaning, 'No, no.' -Ed.] That is the classroom. There are benches, a

blackboard and everything else and chalk, but you are not about the bench, blackboard and chalk, but in the lessons that are being put there. That is what you take with you. You don't carry home...

"I went to school today."

"How do you know?"

"Look, I came home with one of the desks."

"Didn't you learn anything? You came home with the desk?"

Do you understand what I mean? People always take a spiritual revelation and make it a carnal interpretation. That is what happens because they are in the humanistic realm. You see, whatever realm you are in, you are going to see and relate to your world that way. And that is why some people's world is powerless. It is because they need to be brought up a little higher.

You watch a mechanic. He has an old car. It got written off; ran into some big truck, parked up in some old ditch; all kinds of old canal water, all kinds of different things in it. Sun and rain beating it down there; dented and getting rusty and everything else.

One day, driving a wrecker, he pulls it out of the ditch, takes it into the garage (see?) and he stands there and he looks at that and he says, "You see this? They tell me this thing 'write off' [a vehicle or other object that is too badly damaged to be repaired -Ed.] according to their theology in mechanics." He says, "But something inside of me is telling me that this thing is redeemable. If this *thing* gets straightened out here, if I get this engine, the mechanics working here; if I re-boar this block, if I get this *thing* fixed up there," he said, "I can have this thing back on the road. This isn't finished yet. I am not writing off this at all. I'm like 'the good Samaritan' in cars." See?

He begins to pour in his time and energy, and sacrifice, and money, and everything else, or if he has to go and 'dig' [work -Ed.] in that car in the rain or sun, if

he has to go down in a pit, he climbs down in that pit. He wants to get every position he can get in where he can really work and get at it, because he has one thought in mind – restore this thing; restoration. Is that right?

He is a mechanic but the Mystery of Redemption is revealed in mechanics and motorcars in the garage. And God reveals Himself in your occupation and your person. But remember, what He is revealing is the Three-fold Secret. That is what He wants to reveal to everybody. He doesn't just want to reveal natural things; He wants to reveal the Three-fold Secret, but that is the channel. See?

From the time that thing is fixed, and he sees the engine and he starts it and it is working nice; he sees how it is burning the oil, he hears the timing of the engine and everything else, next thing he starts to look at the body. He says, "I can bring back that body too, you know. It might cost me a little extra change [money - Ed.] but with that engine working that way, I'm getting encouraged." Next thing he gets a new body; now for the upholstery. He says, "You know, I can put it in *this* color and I could fix it here." And he starts to get thoughts now. See? And he doesn't mind. Why? He is taken up in his world.

Yet he may have children or a wife or someone who got in an emotional wreck, or is a nervous wreck. Is that right? Are you with me? God was teaching him to bring back wrecks. God was teaching him to fine-tune the mechanics but he is so in a physical world: "When people come to my garage I can say, 'Good morning. The Lord be with you,' because that is my position." You are carnal. I mean that is good too, but you don't stop there.

Remember the man from 'General Motors' who designed the thing? The car represented the Church. Then Revelation 10:1 came and said, "I'm the Man

Who designed the Church. I know what it takes to put Her into Rapturing condition."

My. We are all over the place here, today. This is a 'libero'. [A player on each team who serves as a defensive specialist; a backrow player -Ed.] Row with the back line and the forward line. I tell you, we are playing all over the field, here.

Then sometimes the wife is a wreck or the children are wrecks, or the boy 'ran off the road' and ends up in the wrong company, (see?) maybe need some repairs, but you have no time, you have no energy for that. But you have energy for the motorcar, you have energy for this here, have energy... You'll rub out that rust. You'll take the blow torch and burn that old, rotten part of the car out, you'll weld back in a new piece, you'll file it down nicely; when you pass your hands, it feels smooth. He watches the lines; it gets back straight, on the car. And all that time you are not watching the children, you are not watching the home; you are not interested in that.

Why? He valued that car more than the very children. He valued that thing more than the real purpose. And that was only a channel where the Mystery opened up to him because it is God Who designed him. Since he is not a preacher to type from Genesis to Revelation, 'covenant' and 'dispensation' and different things, God gave him a world to see the same Mystery and talk it in a language that God could communicate to him, and he can become a channel that God can express Himself through and redeem people always. Because the Word and the Christian experience is for people. Is that right?

Learn your position. Understand your position. Fight to take your position. Are you a mason? Get your line. Don't watch with your eye. Don't trust your eye; get the Plummet. The Bible talks about, "The plummet in the hands of Zerubbabel." [Zechariah 4:10 -Ed.] Is that right? The Measuring Line. Sure, friends. Get your mortar mixed right, (amen,) that when you slap it on,

it doesn't fall back off on you; whole day you are rubbing, rubbing and you are not getting anywhere. Glory. Thank You, Jesus.

Oh my. My time is up. I played the fool here this morning. God, help me.

Warning Then Judgment. [1963-0724 - God Doesn't Call Man To Judgment Without First Warning Him - para. 34-40 -Ed.] I'll read a little quote here.

He says: And now, we find out that His Nature was here to always to warn a man before judgment, to warn a nation before judgment, and so forth. He always gives His warning, a reminder to we, of a responsibility. We are responsible, and God has put us here on the earth for a reason, and that reason that He has put us here [on earth] for, we are responsible to Him for that reason. You should go to Him and find out what He wants you to do.

... If you went to work for a man, and he give you a job on a ranch, or something another, and you just went out to the barn and just set down out there, and say, "Well?" See, you must go ask him what he wants you to do, and then do it. If you're working for a man, find out what your duties is.

And then if our life is on the earth here, then we should go to the One Who put us here, and [say], "Lord, what would You have me do? What must I do? Why am I here?" If it's to be a housewife, dishwasher, if it's to be... Whatever God wants you to do, then you do that the very best that you know how to do it. No matter how little, no matter how little it is, you must do it.

You say, "Well..." The trouble of it is, each [man] wants to do the next man's job. [See?] We all want to pack the ball, as we say. You see?

Like this watch here, now, every little movement...

He said: Like this watch...

He was talking about his watch.

...every little movement in there has its place. Now, every part of it can't be the hands. Now, I only look at

the hands to see what time it is. But if one of them little wheels in there gets out of order, that won't keep the right time.

If that main spring breaks inside there or something, when you look at the hands, the hands will tell the wrong time. But you only look at the hands to tell the time. But that doesn't mean the hand is the watch. But the hands are working in harmony with the rest. Is that right? But they are all working. There are some visible parts and some invisible parts, but the watch-maker who designed the watch, he put each one in its part. He put a little part to tell seconds, he put a little one to tell minutes; he put one to tell hours. Well, each one ministers in their own capacity.

Then he put some wheels just to keep going around like this [Bro. Vin demonstrates -Ed.], all the time. Then he put a little chime to come out: "Pong, pong, pong." He made a little chime there. That little chime has to come out just at the time when it is a certain hour. Is that right? Now, the one who designed the watch had all those parts in his mind.

And that's the way it is with people. We've all, the Body of Christ has got to be in their position in harmony. See? And then we can look around and see what time of day it is. See? Then the world's a-looking to see what it is. See, see? But they're watching you. And if you're just a little hair spring, main spring, or whatever you are, you do the very best job you can at that.

Now, catch this. This is the portion I want to get here.

Now, because, we have a responsibility that we've got to answer to God someday for. Every man that come on the face of the earth has to answer to God for a responsibility. And to many of us, a stewardship, we have to answer for. ... This responsibility is a stewardship that's been committed to us by God; I don't care what it is. As I said a few moments ago, "a

housewife," then be a genuine housewife. That's right. If it's to be a farmer, be a genuine farmer.

So, I kind of opened up farmer-hood to show you and give you a little insight to what farmer-hood is like; (see?) not the little thing that just goes on there. That is the channel. See?

That's right. If it's to be a farmer, be a genuine farmer. Whatever it is that God has put you to do, you got a stewardship to that; you've got to answer to God for, because it takes all these things to do it.

So, we all have a stewardship here that we have to answer for and give an account for and God is holding us responsible for that stewardship.

Now, we found out what being accountable is. It is being answerable for something. 'To be held answerable for; to act in a creditable manner; to answer or explain in reference to judgment'.

God is not going to judge you for something He did not call you for. God is going to judge you for what He called you for. And that is why God is showing you your life, how your life is, the things that have an influence in your life, the equipment that God has put in you; the way He designed you; whether He gives you time, what kind of energy He gives you; whether He gives you beauty, whether He gives you education, whether He gives you spiritual gifts: (see?) faith, wisdom, knowledge, different things; how He wants you to use those things for the advancement of His Kingdom.

It is required of stewards to be faithful. A steward must be taken up in his master's service. That was why this man was interested in his own business. He was wasting the master's goods. The master delivered his goods to him, but instead, he was not interested in why the goods was given to him; what the master intended the goods to be used for.

Like Balaam, Balaam was given a gift to see visions. He couldn't help but see visions. But do you know what happened? He made a market of it. He sold out for money. Is that right? He was called and given a gift. He had influence in the congregation; influenced a lot of people, but what did he do with that gift? He led them to a golden calf; tried to get out of his position. Is that right? Sure.

So, many times people have gifts, but look what they are stirring the people to. Look at how they influence the people, and they take them into carnal relationships. They take them into all kinds of foolishness instead of taking them into a life where they can understand their place and learn to function in the place where they've come to, because by fellowshipping with them they see one a little more mature, one a little more advanced, one with a little more expertise in the things that God called them for; one that can communicate to them the teaching because they are conscious of what their experiences are so they know how to help another one coming along their life's journey.

That is why fellowship must be for edification. If fellowship is just old talk and talk about *this* one and talk about *this* one and talk about *this* one and talk about *this* here, you are wasting time. You are not redeeming the time. It's best you pray for the weak ones; it would profit the church better. Or best you stay home and consecrate your life, or best you learn to shut your mouth and hold your tongue still. Sure. It is going to profit you in the end, because the Bible also said you have to give an account for every idle word that you speak. Is that right? Even idle words.

Didn't the Angel say, "Jesus is coming soon; your thoughts speak louder in Heaven than on earth"? Sure. That was communicated in the visitation.

Moses thought about his words. Why? Because look at the authority. When authority is placed in people, they have to be careful of what they say. They have to be careful of how they act and how they carry about themselves because they are in a position of influence, and what they are using that influence for.

People learn to respect the position, just the position. They don't respect the man so much, but because the man or the woman is in a position, they respect the position. And if that man or that woman doesn't use that office properly, do you know what is going to happen? They will become a stumblingblock because they will dishonor that office.

Responsible. 'Responsible' means, 'to be legally or ethically accountable for the care or welfare of another'.

Parents are responsible for their children. God gave them children. God showed in the Bible, it is He Who gives children. God was the One Who gave the commission to give children in the beginning. When He made man, He said, "Multiply and replenish." Is that right? God said, "Children are an heritage of the Lord and the fruit of the womb is his reward." [Psalm 127:3 -Ed.] Is that right? God gives children. Then parents have to be accountable: "Train up that child in the way it should go; when it gets older it will not depart from it." Is that right? Sure.

That's why I am trying to explain that there about the farmer and the mechanic – a channel to let you see, if you have hope for a motorcar that is wrecked and written off, if you are going to put all that energy and time behind botany life, look, God gave you a greater life than that – a life that is going to go in the new civilization; a life that you influence here on earth and that you can communicate to. See? Going through the same stages spiritually what that one is naturally. That is why nobody has an excuse. See? Because God brings everyone of us face to face with Him. We've come into reality with God; we've come into contact with God.

'Responsible' means, 'to be able to be trusted or depended upon; reliable'. God will hold you responsible. Why? He gave you a trust. God expects

that He should be able to rely upon you; He should be able to depend upon you. If He tells you, "Go," where He says, "Go," you go. What He says to do, you do. You are a prisoner, bound in chains to His will.

Like when Pharaoh told Moses, "No. You go with the men; leave the women and the animals here," Moses said, "No."

He said, "Okay. Leave the animals here. You go with the men and women."

Moses said, "Not one hoof we are leaving behind."

Is that right? No compromise with the enemy; it is what God said. Exactly. No amount of pressure could Pharaoh put on Moses. Why? He had been in the Presence of a Greater than Pharaoh. So, who was Pharaoh? He knew he was in the Book. He was representing God. God said, "I will make you God to Pharaoh." Pharaoh's name was not even in the records. God raised him up to show His Power and His might.

Doesn't Romans 9 say that? Both of them raised up at the same time – Rameses and Moses, coming to a head. One in the Lamb's Book, one in the section there, reflecting God on earth, showing forth the Mystery of Christ. The other one, brother, he has no representation in Heaven. He was reflecting Lucifer on the earth, coming against God. Exactly right.

Look. 'Responsible' also means, 'required to render an account based upon or characterized by good judgment; sound thinking'. If you are going to be made responsible for something, somebody knows, "I can trust you, that is why I am making you responsible."

God gave you children because God expects you to be a real mother. You say, "Well, I don't know." God expects you to learn and find out and study motherhood and get deep into the depths of motherhood. God expects you not to stay shallow in child-training. God expects you to be interested. Why?

Take your five talents and make it five more. Develop what God gave you. Increase it. Let it abound in you.

If these things – faith, virtue, knowledge, be in you and abound, you shall never be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ. You will not be blind; you will see afar off. You cannot fall if these things are inside of you. Is that right?

That is why I don't believe in people telling me they have the Holy Ghost and I don't see you growing. If you have the Holy Ghost, you'll grow every day; Life is inside of you. If you have the Holy Ghost, you'll see more Power come into your life every day, you'll get more like Christ every day, you'll walk closer every day, you'll see more authority come into your life every day; you'll see your revelation gets greater every day.

Head knowledge doesn't grow. It is not Life. It is something on a shelf; you take it down and use it. You have to dust it off, take it and use it. But, "Out of your innermost being shall flow Rivers of Living Water. He that believeth on Me as the Scripture saith." One is a real experience that brings a New Birth inside of there.

Okay, quickly. Give me a couple minutes. I can close here if you want. [Congregation says, "No." -Ed.] Alright. Thank you. I'm not going to hold you long. I will just strike one or two of these Scriptures here. I guess I was saying some of these things, why I had to dramatize and maybe elaborate on some of the things is that, it is not so much that I am interested and have intent to put it out; it is God Who wants to break it down and to find people who need it broken down into that level to get it. Because I could stand up here and impress you. You would say, "Boy, he knows his stuff. He can speak that," and then the church still needs edification on it when we are done. See? It is not a platform performance. God is interested in giving people knowledge to strengthen them in these places. Amen.

So, the Lord help me; give me the right Scripture here today. Okay. Let us drop to Matthew 24. Let us try Matthew 24, here, as we kind of close up; begin to close up with Matthew 24. When you talk about Matthew 24, from the time a trained believer, trained with the Holy Ghost, hears Matthew 24, the first thing they pick up – Seven Seals. Is that right? The first Six Seals were revealed and then He began to speak in parables, and every parable was pertaining to His Coming, because the Seventh Seal holds the Secret of His Coming.

So, verse 36. He was beginning to go into parables now. Verses 32 to 35, He went into the first parable about the fig tree, because Matthew 24:29-31, is that Sixth Seal, disturbance of nature and all these things. Now, He went into parables. Then we'll pick up verse 36.

³⁶ But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

³⁷ But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Now, watch it. He was talking about the day and the hour. He didn't say which week, month or year, but He said:

³⁶ ...of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

Now, He was going to give us signs. Watch this. He began to throw out some signs, here. And He said:

³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage...

Now, all of that is good. Eating and drinking is good. We should do that. We should marry and give in marriage. We should do that. But the thing is, they were just living joyously and not preparing for

judgment. And Noah was talking about judgment. Noah was building an ark to save people from the wrath that was coming. Hebrews 11 says, "By faith Noah, being warned of God by things not seen as yet, moved with fear and prepared the ark to the saving of his household." Is that right?

So notice, they were not preparing for judgment. The prophet is a sign of oncoming judgment. But watch now.

³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

So, the Coming of the Son of Man, He was trying to tell them, "No man knows the day or the hour." He said, "Remember the days of Noah? They didn't know when the flood was coming." They saw Noah, they saw the prophet, they saw the ark being built, they saw him enter in, they saw the door shut and they were not spiritual to know that their time was running out, and they were not thinking about their future state. They were going to end up as food for the crows, who were going to feed on their dead bodies.

Watch.

They knew not until the flood came, and took them all away...

And Jesus said:

...so...

So we have to know. We want to know. We want to know the signs. We don't know the day or the hour. We want to know the signs. We want to be able to follow the Word advancing. Is that right? Then watch now.

- ⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.
- ⁴¹ Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Not, "The one shall go of his own accord; the one shall be taken." There is a Taker doing the taking. That word means, 'to take in order to carry away'. The Angels came and took Elijah. The Cloud came down and received Jesus up out of their sight. Is that right? Taking away. Taking away. Rapturing time. 'Take in order to carry away'. It means, 'to claim' also. It means, 'To appropriate to oneself that which, when taken, is not let go'.

When God comes and takes ahold of you, friend, He is not letting you go: "No man is able to pluck them out of My hand. All that the Father hath given Me, I will lose none of them." *The* one; not one. *The* one – *the* predestinated one; *the* wise one. The foolish one will get left behind, but *the* one.

Watch. Watch how He is doing this thing now. Now watch, verse 42.

⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

What is the subject He was dealing with? No man knoweth the day or the hour, but as it was in the days of Noah, they knew not. He said, "So, you don't know either." So, what are you going to do? Watch.

He wants to tell them, "Guard against slothfulness. Guard against complacency. Don't just go along in rioting and eating and drinking and not preparing for judgment. Watch the prophet, watch the ark being built; watch the move of the Holy Spirit as It keeps going on; as it was in that day. You don't know the day nor the hour, so watch." He was stimulating watchfulness. He was trying to plant a seed of watchfulness in His Church concerning His Coming. Look up and lift up your heads. You see?

42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Now, He is in a parable here.

⁴³ But know this, that if the [householder or the] goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come...

You see, they didn't have clocks like we have here. They had 'watches'. From six to nine – the first watch. From nine to twelve – the second watch. From twelve to three – the third watch, and from three to six – the fourth watch. They had four 'watches'. 'Watch' was 'a period of time' there. And the time when you are most sleepy, is from twelve to three. Because from three to six, you are getting up for the new day. And from six to nine, you are still up, and from nine to twelve, well, you start to get sleepy. But from twelve to three, you are in deep sleep.

So He was showing them now... He was dealing with a state of the human being. Now, I want you to catch this really good because we'll climax it here. So He is telling them, "Look, do you know how it is when twelve comes and you start to yawn? And then you need coffee now, to keep you up." You need 'matchsticks under the eyelids' [referring to trying to keep the eyes open -Ed.] because at that time, you are heavy with sleep. He says, "But if you knew the thief was going to come, you are not going to lie down and let him steal everything in the house."

Even though you don't know what hour the thief was coming; you don't know which watch he was coming in... If he came from six to nine to steal, he isn't too much of a bright thief. If he came from nine to twelve, he is taking chances because you could still be up. If he comes from twelve to three, then that would be a good time to come because he could expect you to be asleep. You would be surprised. You would have to have knowledge of his coming then. See?

So, He is saying then, "In that time when you are most sleepy..." See? Sleep is what? Sleep has to do with night-time and night-time is when man goes to sleep. There are so many hours in the day, Jesus said,

and then in the night, we know no man can work, so he goes to rest. He enters into rest after labor.

So He said, "So it is in that hour when it seems that the whole system of the man automatically locks off to renew and rebuild strength for the new day and the work he has for the new day, you'll have to control that and shut that sleep out of you and watch." So now He is dealing with the attitude of your watchfulness that you should have for when He is Coming. So:

> ...if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken [into].

44 Therefore be ye also ready...

So now, from watchfulness, it is getting ready. Because if you wake up all night waiting for the thief to come and then the thief comes and you are not ready for the thief...

Waking is vain if you are not preparing while you are awake. The Foolish Virgins... "And they that were ready," the Bible says, talking about the Wise ones, "went in and the others were left behind." Is that right? The Marriage of the Lamb is come and the Bride hath made Herself, what? [Congregation says, "Ready." -Ed.] She hath made Herself ready. The Message came for, what? Preparation.

We are talking about a steward here now; the attitude of a steward who realizes he is going to be held accountable and responsible because certain things have been committed to his trust and what is committed to his trust, before God could pronounce "Well done" and he could be called a good and faithful servant... He has to have a "Well done," first before he could be called a "good and faithful servant." Because if it is not "Well done," then he is an unprofitable servant; he is an unjust steward.

So, look. So, He said:

⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Now, He goes into another parable. That first one there was the goodman who would not allow his house to be broken into by the thief. Remember Jesus said, "I come as a thief." Watch here now, this next parable.

⁴⁵ Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

This servant was a steward. Every steward is a servant, but every servant is not a steward. I'm going to prove that to you just now. Because a steward is over his household and he has the responsibility of administrating the household and giving out the portion of meat to the ones in the household.

We are going to pick up a little more as we go along. I don't want to break the stride.

So, He said:

⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

⁴⁷ Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

Watch the blessing when He is coming now, for his faithfulness. Who is the, what? Faithful and wise. He that is faithful in the least will be faithful in more. He that is not faithful with another man's goods, how can he be faithful with his own goods? Amen?

We are still back in Luke 16. I'm going to pick it back up just now. I'm just unfolding a little more of the stewardship bringing it into the Coming of the Lord now, under the Seventh Seal, which is the Coming, where they have to give an account for their stewardship.

Now, watch over here.

⁴⁸ But and if that evil servant...

There are two types of servants here. One, faithful and wise. Not wise and faithful; faithfulness first, then wisdom. Faithfulness first, then wisdom. You know the principle: "If any man lacks wisdom let him ask of God"; let any man that be faithful. Because if you are wise and full of wisdom and could explain *this* and explain *that* and then you are not faithful to go and do what you could explain, then you are a hearer and not a doer. Watch.

⁴⁸ But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

What is he saying? Now, catch this. My lord delayeth His Coming. He is putting off thoughts of Christ's Coming. He was so under the importance of the thoughts of the Coming, but now other interests that war against his mind, that brought his mind captive, and other desires that now possess his soul and other influences that penetrated his defenses, and is controlling and influencing his life.

He is no longer steadfast. He is no longer interested. He is no longer zealous and dedicated to his Master's service. Now he is putting off the thoughts of his Master's Coming. But even though you put off your thoughts of His Coming, you don't put off His Coming. Are you catching that? You might put off thoughts of His Coming, but that is not putting off His Coming.

... [he] say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming.

⁴⁹ And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

Watch what he is doing. He goes with his worldly associations right away. You watch a man beginning to backslide, he goes straight into the world. Friendship with the world is enmity with God.

And:

⁵⁰ The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

So, He came back to the day and the hour He was speaking of in verse 36. He is still on that thought: "No man knows the day or the hour," and He brought it down now, to a servant in the household. Not outside of the household; in the household, the household of faith; the Master's household. Are you catching it?

When? At the time of the Coming. At the time of Revelation 10. At the time when He comes to receive us into everlasting habitations. "I will come again and receive you unto Myself" – at the time of that Coming. When He comes in a Cloud, look up, your Redemption draweth nigh. As it was in the days of Noah, when He comes back and is being revealed as the Son of Man in a Prophet, a sign of coming judgment – in that day. Watch.

So why were these people missing it? They had no revelation of their Master's Coming. They might have a revelation to build churches, they might have a revelation to have a program, they might have a revelation to hold a concert, 'Gospel Glory', 'Hallelujah' or whatever it is; they might have a revelation about a program, to go on the radio or something; they might have a revelation to go out there and give out tracts and books; they might have a revelation to put up a little Bible school, but you better have a revelation of His Coming. That is the separating thing – when He is Coming. And since you don't know the day or the hour, then watch the signs of the time; watch the condition of the world. Look!

⁵¹ And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Let us turn over to Luke 12 with that and pick up the same parable a little differently recorded. So, as I said, we are finishing up here. I'm just trying to read out these Scriptures to show you the accountability that we see in Luke 16... It is not just Luke 16, it is all through, because every steward gives an account of the stewardship they have received and they have to be responsible to that. And as we read there, he says, whatever your position is, whatever you are called unto, it is a stewardship that we have to answer to God for one day.

Luke 12, verse 35. Here was Jesus teaching again. He preached the same Message in a different place, but He is bringing out a different emphasis here. Watch.

35 Let your loins be girded about, and your [lamps] burning;

³⁶ And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

He didn't say, "But nobody home. They are supposed to be home. Where have they gone? Open the door!" Knock, knock, knock; walked around the house; looked inside. No. They are like men who knew He was going to the Wedding to come back. And from the time He goes and comes back, they are so waiting and watching, they opened immediately. They were ready. You see? They are in readiness.

³⁷ Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to [eat], and will come forth and serve them.

³⁸ And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

³⁹ And this know...

Now, Jesus is teaching, okay? If He shall come and find them watching, then those servants are blessed.

³⁹ And this know, that if [the owner of the house] the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through.

⁴⁰ Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.

⁴¹ Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speakest thou this parable unto us, or even to all?

Now remember, many times He said, "Unto you is given to know the Mystery but unto them it's parables." When Peter heard that message, he said, "The tone He said it in and the way He looked at some of us while He was saying it, I kind of felt that that had a double meaning." So, he said, "Before I take it for granted, let me find out from the Lord if He meant us too." Like how denominational people say, "Let God save the world. We are saved already." People like to think that way. That is denominational thinking. Watch.

⁴² And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season?

⁴³ Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Now, this wasn't just a parable, this was a prophecy. Jesus was revealing that He was going to come a second time. And He was revealing and identifying the conditions that people would find themselves in, who were supposed to be looking for His Coming. But because they lack a revelation and they got caught in the wrong thing and didn't prepare for judgment, they will become just like those people in

the days of Noah who knew it not until the flood came, because they failed to watch and they failed to get ready.

He was teaching about watchfulness, about preparation; about faithfulness. Are you watchful? What kind of watchfulness do you have as a steward? What kind of preparation have you been making? Are we in the Coming of the Lord? What interest do you have in the things of God, right now?

Remember my title: Give An Account Of Your Stewardship. If God calls any one of us right now and say, "Give an account of your stewardship," could we stand and consciously, knowing what we do with our time, what we do with our energy, what we do with our health, what we do with the opportunities God gives to us, what we do with the influence we have, what we do with the money He provides for us, could we stand up and actually be answerable and be creditable to the responsibility in reference to judgment; Him judging us, whether we kept the commission or not?

Not judgment like Hell, you know; judging you according to your works. "Behold, I come quickly and My reward is with Me to give every man according to his works." That is this Message. How many know that? Revelation 22, that is this Message. He will judge the quick and the dead at His Appearing.

When the Son of Man came, He came to Abraham and into Sodom. Is that right? "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?" And then, now the Son of Man, judgment had to come. He always separates the righteous from the wicked. That 'judgment' means, 'investigation judgment'. It is a judicial act of God. It is a separating. God always separates the righteous before He judges the wicked.

He put Noah in the ark and then He sent the flood. He put Israel under the blood and then He sent the Death Angel into Egypt. Is that right? Ezekiel 9 – He marked them in their foreheads, who sighed and cried

and shut them away and Sealed them, and He put the Slaughtering Angel on the rest. Is that right? In the time of the Jubilee, one went out, and one ear was bored. He'll judge the quick and the dead, both, at His Appearing. Sure.

What time are we in? Is this the Coming? Is this the Seventh Seal? We are no longer on a 'Shout, Voice and Trump' or a doctrine, or whether we believe it is open or not. Where is the preparedness? Where is the faithfulness and the wisdom? Where is the watchfulness? Who is able to give an account of their stewardship? See?

Watch a thinking man's filter; a holy man's taste. See the Word confirmed many times in his life; heard His Voice say, "Well done, My good and faithful servant." He was asking, "Will Paul be judged? Well, I did exactly like what he did." That is this Message. Be careful lest you lose your reward. You might not lose your salvation but you can lose your reward. See that no man takes your crown. You can lose your crown. Are you ready to lose your children? The stewardship.

Let us go on reading the Scripture here. Verse 43:

⁴³ Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

⁴⁴ Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

⁴⁵ But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken;

⁴⁶ The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware...

See? No revelation of His Coming.

...and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.

You know, the unbelievers will go through Tribulation. *The* one was taken, the faithful and wise servants but the others, the evil servants, were left behind. The Wise Virgins went but the Foolish Virgins were left behind.

Let me tell you, a lot of you inside of here, I look at some of you sometimes, you hear the Word from the desk right here, and go outside and live differently from the time you walk out of this place; still carrying little secret things in your heart, carrying it around quietly, not realizing, here is God reaching down, right down here because He has something great for you; because He wants to give it to you. And if you don't receive it, it is no fault of God's because you are actually spurning it. See?

⁴⁷ And that servant, [who] knew his lord's will...

Now, catch this. First thing; "Shall I hide this thing from Abraham?" No. Revelation of God's will is associated with, what? Fellowship. When God considers you and brings you into fellowship with Him, He reveals His secrets to you. God reveals the Mysteries to you. You are to be a steward of the Mysteries. God gives us a measure of the Holy Spirit, the Inside Teacher to guide us into all Truth, the Guide, so we will know how to carry out the work He called us for.

Listen.

⁴⁷ And that servant, who knew his lord's will and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

See? Knowledge of God's will should produce, what? Responsibility and make you prepare. God is not giving you revelation to say you are 'deep'. God is not giving you revelation to look down on people. God is not giving you revelation to compare yourself with people and think you are knowledgeable. God is giving

you revelation of His will to make you responsible; to hold you accountable. And that is why chastisement comes – because people fail to realize when Light is revealed they become responsible to God for the Truth that He reveals to them. And if they fail to live that Word and carry out that Word...

Remember, mercy has come to you in the form of Light, so that God could bring you out of darkness to walk in His Light, to have fellowship one with the other. Walking in Light is associated with fellowship and the Blood cleanseth you. To walk in Light is what brings cleansing.

A lot of people say, "Oh God, cleanse me, cleanse me. Take away *this*," and they are refusing to walk in Truth. And when God is revealing the Word to them, they don't want to walk in it. They rather hold on to some denominational teaching, or some man's ideas, or their own private interpretation.

But any man who can receive the Word of God, let me tell you, and submit yourself to the Word of God, humbling yourself under the mighty hand of God... Let the Word become your head. Let the Word, Christ, become the Bridegroom, become the Husband that rules you and takes Headship over your life and Whom you are willing to love and serve and obey and honor, in sickness or in health, for better or for worse, in riches or poverty; regardless of your condition, you took a true vow to that Word: "Till death do us part." See? You stay tied to that Word. Watch.

⁴⁸ But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of [them] shall much be required...

Some people say, "I came over here for the Word." I would sit and laugh sometimes. Not laugh in a wrong way, but thinking that they can bluff themselves. And many times I tell them right here, I say, "Yes, but more

is required of you right now." And then what happens? Before six months passes, they are in a worst state than where they left.

Do you know why? They rejoiced in the Light. Jesus said, "John was a bright and shining Light and you rejoiced in the Light." He said, "But walk while you have the Light." Don't rejoice in the Light. The word 'rejoice' there, is like some flies around the light, buzzing around the light: "Whoo, hoo," and they are only beating up there, happy for the light but they are not walking in the light.

The Light is given for you to walk in the Light; not to rejoice in the Light. You sit here and say, "Whoo, I love that. That is deep. Didn't you see that? That was deep." Boy, you mark up your Bible with colors all over. But what you should put down and say is, "Today God spoke to me; I will lay that down. Today God quickened that to me. It is burned into my heart; I will never be the same." Those are the notes you should be taking. That is what you should be marking. "Today the pile of refuse got a little higher because I laid aside my weight and my sin. God washed those things away from me. God broke those things from around my life this day." And you are happy. You plant the stake down; you drive it down deep. Amen? Why?

⁴⁸ ...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

If a man can't be faithful in what is given to him, how can he be faithful in more? Watch, He was still teaching. Watch His thoughts all the way through this...

I have to stop it here. I can't go on. I'm going to hold you too long if I go on with this here. So, you've been a good audience; I have been a bad preacher. Amen. But this subject is so large. Right now, I have about seven messages right on this one thing, and I'm just trying to break in here, this morning on the second one, to begin to show you this great thing in the Coming of the Lord.

This is the Hour of His Coming, friends. This is the Hour where every man has to give an account. We all have to give an account of our stewardship.

We are going to pick it up another time. Let's just stand to our feet, this morning, (praise His wonderful Name,) as the musicians come.

Give An Account Of Your Stewardship. Remember, you have to give an account. Heaven is not the place my mother used to tell me about. I believe the Church has grown from that since the opening of the Seven Seals. We are going to a Civilization where we are going to work and live and do things. There will be a Government there. There will be an Administration there. There will be a position there that we will take up, and right now, in this very life, the place in that Civilization is being revealed here.

The Rapture is not just getting caught away; it is beyond that. Because the people who are caught away, are the people who make up His Body here. The people who make up His Body here, are the people who take their place in that Body and are adopted into that place, here. Those are the ones that go – the ones that come to maturity here.

It is a great, marvelous thing. Do you know what it does, friends? It gives value to our Christianity. It gives value to these couple of hours we spend here, sitting under the Word in a hot building. It lets us know that we are talking about a reality. Not church-joining, not glorifying some Minister; not trying to put it on some denomination or some church, but it is talking about a relationship with Jesus Christ, it is talking about a revelation of God's will in the Day that you are living in; it is talking about the influence the Word has upon your life, you who have been called, you who have

been given this great Light; it is talking about the effects of the vision upon you.

You who claim to see this vision, you who walk in this vision, what kind of effect does It have upon you? What is your expectation? What has it produced in you? What are you looking for, for the Lord to come, and what will He say to you? Have you ever thought of it?

I will have to stand before Him one day. I'll look Him in the eyes; He'll look at me. I'll only be able to stand and not die because I can stand on His merit. If I can stand on His merit, it will make all the difference; if I know, "I used up my life, broken and spilled out, just for the love of You, Jesus."

I saw Him needing a service to be done. I had the equipment to do it by inspiration. Like the woman with the hair and the tears; just needed to be anointed to go into service. She didn't have to go and find a rag somewhere; she didn't have to get a bucket of water. She broke up the fountain of tears. And when He was neglected and nobody washed His feet, she began to wash His feet with her tears. She had the equipment inside of her. Think of it.

So, I want you to realize, every one of us, we will hear Him say to us, if we have been faithful and wise, "Well done." There will be a smile on His face. There'll be a joy in His heart because the sacrifice that you have made, the way that you have committed yourself to Him, He'll be pleased to know that you love Him with that kind of love and you served Him with that kind of zeal.

Nobody had to push you, or beg you, or bully you, or plead with you to get you to do anything. Whether the night was dark, whether the day was cold, whether it was long and hot, there was something in your heart; love bubbling over, looking for a vent, looking for a channel of expression, looking for someone that you could show love to because, "As I have loved you,

so you should love one another, and by this love shall all men know, you are My disciples when you love one another." And so, you can love and show love because He has loved you.

You might admire things in your very own life right now that you might see yourself special in; God gave that to you. It is really there; you are really seeing it, but don't get taken up with it and don't behave like it is yours. God gave it to you. Find out why He gave it to you. Find out how you can use it to serve Him. Find out how He can take it and use it in a way that you can never ever use it in your own energy and that some life can be assisted and someone can be drawn to know Him. It makes all the difference then, friends, because others could see Him in you.

Isn't that what we want to be today? Isn't that the kind of Christians we want to be? Do you feel you really love Him and want to serve Him; walk a little closer to Him – this great Jesus Christ we are talking about; this great, lovely Lord; this great Word He has sent in the last days; this great Message that is so rich that we could feast on, that we can see how life ought to be lived; we can see what Christianity really is and we want to be that kind of Christian?

When we think of the early church, of Peter and Paul and Martha and Mary and Lazarus and they, we think of these kinds of Christians. Not the denominational, hybrid crop today: painted-face Jezebels, women half-naked in pants tight as ever, bobbed-hair, you know, claiming that God raised them up, and men who are sissified and everything else. No! Real men and real women, washed in the Blood, filled with the Spirit, bound in chains of the Word, reflecting Jesus Christ in reality. When you see them, you see the Bible come to life.

Oh, I'm thankful for that. That is what I believe: For I was born to be His dwelling place, a home for the Presence of the Lord. Let's sing that little song. It's

such a beautiful little song. So let my life now be separated unto Thee.

So, as we close, you have this desire in your heart today. Soon you will be out of the doors: some of you will be going back to your homes, some of you will be spending the evening somewhere; you will be out there in fellowship in the yard outside, but these few moments right here, reflecting on what we have heard, what He has spoken to us out of the Scriptures today, what He is trying to impress upon us, the way He wants to bring us to relate to these things, just in these few moments, let it be between you and Him.

Let us just bow our heads and close our eyes. In the Spirit of God, worship Him in this little song as a prayer, desiring to be more filled with the Spirit; to get a greater hold of the revelation of His will, to be more in preparation, to see the faithfulness and the wisdom evident, to see the watchfulness in our attitude; to know we are truly meeting the requirement He requires that we should be in this Hour.

[#688 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

...to be Thy...

A home for the Presence.

...for the Presence...

Oh, just get in the Spirit and worship Him. Just let that love bathe out of your heart: that love for Jesus, that love for the Word; that love for each other.

Amen. Once more: For I was born to be...

For I was born to be

Thy dwelling place,

A home for the Presence... Hallelujah.

...for the Presence of the Lord;

Hallelujah.

So let my life now be, Jesus.

Oh, separated unto Thee;

That I might be...

Oh Lord, I need You right now.

[#50 - Songs That Live -Ed.]

Ask Him to come in you in a fresh Anointing, with a deeper conviction today. Even right now, Lord, we need You. You want everything surrendered to His will, everything under the control of the Holy Spirit.

I want all of my life, all of my life in Your keeping somehow,

Oh Lord, I need You right now.

Every head bowed; every eye closed. If you truly mean that from the depths of your heart, if you say that out of the grace by which the Holy Spirit has dealt with you today, that you feel a deeper love for our Lord Jesus, that you feel in your heart you want to serve Him in a more complete way, in a way where you truly can stand without fear of condemnation, in a way where you can see Him enabling you to fulfill your sacred responsibility that He has committed unto you. He's developing that equipment within you, so your work that He has raised you up for as an individual can be accomplished and you can come and lay your trophies at His feet. You can, without a shadow of a doubt know, "I did my best, Jesus." And He can say, "I saw it, my child. I saw it. I know it. Well done, My good and faithful child."

As Paul, when he came to the end, he said, "I have fought a good fight. I have kept the faith. I have finished my course and I know that there's a crown of righteousness that awaits me, and not only me, but also those who love His Appearing." Down to the end of his journey, he said, "Whether in life or in death, that Christ will be magnified in my body. For me to die is gain and for me to live is Christ."

They said, "Bonds and affliction await this man. He is going down to Jerusalem. He is not only going to be bound, but they will kill him also."

He said, "Don't weep and break my heart; let me finish my course with joy."

He was willing to suffer for our Lord Jesus. He had become a love-slave and a prisoner. He didn't want to come up a castaway at the end. He wanted to labor fervently and enter into his reward. He said, "So fight I; not as one that beats the air. So run I; I'll run for the prize."

Let us put something more into our service for Him. Let us this day, as we stand in His Presence, find that place where we want to put more; be more committed; put more into our service for Him.

If you feel like that, you want to lift your hands to Him; not to me but to Him. Say, "Lord, You see me in this service today. I'm raising my hand to You. I want to be a faithful and wise steward, Lord." Amen. I believe He will give it to you, children. You want to be a real faithful and wise steward. We'll all meet Him at the end of the road. He said it. This is that Hour.

I raise my hand with yours because I too will have to give an account for the ministry He has given me, for the Gospel I have preached, for the work that He has called me to do. I too want to say, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith, I have finished my course." I don't want to shun my responsibilities. I don't want to just try to impress my neighbor. I want to please my Lord. I don't want to try to influence some brother or sister to admire me and hold my person in admiration. I want God to say, "He is My servant. This is My beloved son, this is My beloved daughter, in whom I am pleased to dwell in."

You can tabernacle Deity. That is what we are talking about. Not church-joining; not going along heady and high-minded but a reality; a real experience. Hallelujah.

Gracious God, together with this congregation, these that have raised their hands unto You, Father, we bow our hearts in Your great Presence.

We cannot deny the Scriptures. We cannot deny the Hour we are living in. We cannot deny what You taught, Father. We don't want to be called an unjust steward, using, Lord, every influence we could have for selfish benefit, for personal advantage; for selfish gain.

We don't want to try to just satisfy our own ego, so self-centered. You said, "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. Think on the things of others, the strong bearing the infirmities of the weak. As I have loved you, so love one another."

Gracious God, we realize that each and every one of us here, the different callings that You have called unto each and every one of us; the place that You have put us to serve; the capacity; the measure of faith that You have dealt to each and every one of us and we all abiding in the calling in which You have called us, supplying to the Body, Lord, that it might be fitly and compacted by the measure that You have given unto us, that every joint can supply for the more effectual working of the Body, Lord; that truly by and through the members of Your Bride, Your group upon the face of the earth today, Your Elected, called-out, separated Church that You have come down and taken the Headship over. You said, "I am the Vine and you are the branches."

You, working Your Own will, Lord, through each and every one of us that this portion of Word that You allotted to fulfil can truly be fulfilled. And knowing that this is the secret of the Message – to do the Father's business; it becometh unto us to fulfill all righteousness.

You told John, "Suffer it to be so. My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me and to finish His work." Not only when it was convenient, but even in the face of opposition; even under persecution. You said, "What shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? But for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify Thy Name. Unto this end was I born; for this cause came I into the world."

Lord, that is the kind of attitude we want to have in the line of duty; in the line of service, Father. We don't want to make excuses, we don't want to shun our responsibilities; we don't just want to throw the blame on someone else. We don't want to leave the portion that is allotted to us for someone else to fulfil. But like even Judah went to Simeon and said, "Come and go with me and possess my inheritance, and I will go with you and possess yours." We want to see that kind of cooperation that we can go up in this Hour and possess all, and fulfil all, and do all that You have spoken concerning us, Lord.

Almighty God, strengthen our hands for Your service. Give us courage and determination. As the song said today: "Be thou strong and be thou courageous."

Oh my God, we want to rededicate our lives. We want to be like that woman, oh God, Father, in quietness, without any great noise or trying to attract attention to herself, but in humility and sincerity she did You that service. Her eyes were so focused upon what needed to be done and her heart was filled with affection for the One to Whom she was doing it to, and she was wholehearted and single in her duty, fulfilling her objective, dear God.

While You were being rejected, while You were being despised, while You being criticized, she broke through the realm of that criticism, Lord. Lord God, she was so anointed that the tears began to come and the hair, she could take and use it, Father. Oh God, all along You had watched over and protected and kept that equipment because God's gifts always find their right places and it could be used to do You the service according to Your will in the Day that You want it done.

Lord Jesus, so we realize that we too are called to serve and we say, "Here we are, Lord. We offer ourselves a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto You." Take our lives and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Just draw us nearer today. Consecrate us now to Thy service, by Thy Power of grace Divine. Let our souls look up with a steadfast hope; let our wills be lost in Thine. Grant it, Jesus. Consecrate each and everyone. Bless each and everyone, Lord.

May, dear God, when we leave this place today, we go under a fresh anointing, the Power of the Holy Spirit...

[Tape ends abruptly –Ed.]

