



# TRUSTWORTHY STEWARDS

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*I believe He wants us to love others so much that we go to extremes to help them. I believe He wants us to be known for giving ~ of our time, our money, and our abilities ~ and to start a movement of “giving” churches. In so doing, we can alleviate the suffering in the world and change the reputation of His bride in America.*

—Francis Chan

## WHAT'S THE BIG PICTURE?

Jesus confronted the hoarding of wealth in his culture by living out generosity toward the less fortunate. Alongside this, He gave a bold assertion that we are entrusted with – and will be held responsible for – what God has given to us.

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

We are living in a culture and society that could be labeled, “You deserve it.” You deserve a break, you deserve that nice car, you deserve a raise, you deserve to have it any way you want, etc. But Jesus never tells us that. What does it look like to live a culture that says, “Get more for yourself” when we should learn to give more for others?

## WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Since much has been given to us, much is required of us, and since much is entrusted to us, much will be demanded of us. By inviting the poor into our homes, we are being rightful stewards of what we have been given.

## WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PASSAGE?

**Luke 12:48b:** “To whom much has been given, much is required.” Jesus made this statement in context of these parables:

- The rich fool who wanted to make bigger barns for himself. (Luke 12:16-21)
- The watchful servant who was prepared for his master to return. (Luke 12:35-47)

The man who built bigger barns built them for himself, to store up his own wealth and accolades, not to share or help others. But the manager who obeyed his master in managing his affairs did it because he highly revered what his master put in his charge. He was a faithful steward.

Think of it like a trust account. The more one has in the account, the more responsible he is for it. Or education; the more knowledge a person has, the more is expected of her. Or gifting and capacity; the more one has, the more useful he ought to be. So the expectations placed on a person are proportional to how much they are entrusted with.

**Luke 14:12-14:** Jesus was invited to eat at the home of a prominent Pharisee. On his way, He healed a man who had an abnormal swelling of his body, knowing that the Pharisees were watching Him. He then noticed at the meal that guests were seating



themselves in the most prominent places at the table. It is with this backdrop that He gives instructions for hosting a dinner. He told his host not to invite friends that would pay him in return for his generosity, but to instead invite those who could not pay him back.

### LAUNCH QUESTIONS:

1. How do you equate stewardship with helping the poor?
2. In what ways are you particularly blessed by being afforded a college education?

### EXPLORE QUESTIONS

Read Luke 12:13-21; 35-47

3. Compare and contrast the man who built bigger barns for himself with the manager who did what his master told him to?
4. Read the quote by Francis Chan. How do you connect this quote with Luke 12:48?
5. Read this verse in light of the United States. What implications are there for us as a country? How do we, as a nation, measure up? What difference can you make as a citizen through your life, your voting, your involvement in the community, and your choices?

**Note:** The USA remains the world's richest country, with more wealth than the combined treasures of the next four richest nations ~ Japan, China, Germany, and the UK. This includes not only economic output potential, but also mineral wealth and human capital. —“International Business Times”, July 3, 2012

Read Luke 14:12-14

Read the following book excerpt:

“The great eighteenth-century hymn-writer and ex-slave trader John Newton marveled at the far-reaching implications of these words. ‘One would think that Luke 14:12-14 was not considered part of God’s word, nor has any part of Jesus’ teaching been more neglected by His own people. I do not think it is unlawful to entertain our friends; but if these words do not teach us that it is in some respects our duty to give a preference to the poor, I am at a loss to understand them.’” —*Generous Justice*, Keller, Pg 46

6. In light of this, what do you think it means to give preference to the poor?

7. Discuss what you think it might have been like for Jesus to make this bold statement while being a guest at a wealthy person’s home.

### APPLY QUESTIONS

8. Make a list of all the things you have been given (think of things like education, freedom, family, personal belongings, etc). Compare that list with the two billion people in the world who live on less than \$2 a day. How can you shape your choices with them in mind?
9. A common element among the majority of people who are trafficked and sold into slavery is poverty. How can you use what has been given to you to help fight this horrible crime?
10. Deuteronomy 15:7-8 states, “If there is a poor man among your brothers in any of the towns of the land that the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward your poor brother. Rather be openhanded and freely lend him whatever he needs.”
11. How can you practice this as a college student? What about after college? Note: “Currently, more than eight million people around the world die each year because they are too poor to stay alive.” —*The End of Poverty*, Jeffrey Sachs pg 1

Mother Theresa said, “At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done. We will be judged by “I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.”

How can you be a good steward of the college degree you are working on? How can you avoid “building bigger barns” for yourself after school?

### GOING DEEPER

1. Look through your checkbook or at your bank statement. Make line items of your expenses toward:
  - Entertainment (movies, eating out, coffee, social activities, etc.)
  - Giving to the needy



How do you fare? What percentage of your income is going toward helping to meet the needs of the less fortunate compared to your entertainment costs? What financial commitments for giving will you make this year? How can you continue this after college?

2. Along with your friends, invite students over who have physical or mental challenges. Make them a great meal, get to know them and learn their stories.

3. Listen to Tim Keller's sermon "Generosity in Scarcity" that can be found at <http://sermons2.redeemer.com/sermons/generosity-scarcity>.

**Luke 12:48b** – From everyone to whom much has been given much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

**Luke 14:12-14** – <sup>12</sup>He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. <sup>14</sup>And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."