

Open Hands: Stewardship with Kingdom Vision

Image Bearers, Not Owners: Our Role as Managers

Heavenly Father,

We come before you today with hearts full of gratitude and humility.

Thank you for unchanging nature

We confess our faith that is not merely theoretical, one that actively works, transforming our lives and impacting the world around us for our glory.

We pray that faith truly works.

Help us with struggles, external pressures, difficult circumstances, understanding and isolation.

Give us supernatural perspectives to see these moments not as obstacles to our comfort.

Let perseverance finish its work in our lives so that we become mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

Grant us your divine wisdom, generosity and reproach

Help us to ask in faith without doubting.

Guide our hearts and minds for being double-minded and tossed to.

Establish our minds firmly on your truth and promises.

We recognize that we are tempted when we are tempted when we are lured by our own evil desires.

Deliver us from deception.

Remind us that you are never a source of evil or temptation.

Strengthen our resolve to resist the devil, flee from temptation and draw near you.

Help us confess our sins and purify our hearts and minds from every ungodly thought and intention.

We pray from deeper reception to your world.

Help us humbly accept the word planted in us that can save us.

Do not let us be hearers and deceive ourselves.

Help us keep unstained from the world.

Grant us discernment to recognize and courageously step away from environments, relationships and influences that would pull us away from your truth and towards sin.

Give us hearts of impartiality and genuine love for all people including the poor, marginalized, broken and those people struggling towards sin.

In Jesus name, Amen

Our role as image bearers rather than owners highlights a theological and ethical framework where human beings are seen as stewards or managers of the world. Image bearers are responsible to a higher authority. The foundational belief is that God is the ultimate owner of all creation. Image bearers implies that humans are uniquely created in God's image and are tasked with reflecting His character in their management of creation. As image bearers, we must utilize our heavenly wisdom with wisdom from God, care and love others, perform creativity and justice in our actions as Christians and disciples. We are given a mandate as Christians and disciples with the grace of God to work and take care of things. When you do not take care of things means you are letting the devil control you and want you to procrastinate on things and eventually not get things done. The same thing with debt in our life is work and taking care of it. I think about how the Democrats and Republicans talk about our national debt every election year or in Congress, but they fail to address how to work on reducing and taking care of our national debt. That's why we need to stop being dependable on the government and live for God at the center of your life with the grace of God. We need to read and familiarize ourselves with Genesis 2:15 that talks about working it and take care of it. That is one of the ways I look at Genesis 2:15 is working and taking care of things by managing our wisely. We must use our resources that God gives us wisely and make sure the resources we receive from heaven are sustainable in our life on earth before we talk about walking into heaven with our heavenly father and personal savior. Our role as managers fosters a sense of interconnectedness with all of creation. It shifts the focus from selfish consumption to a mindful

approach that considers the well-being of other people, animals, and the environment. These are questions you need to ask yourself and have in a journal:

1. What aspects of my life do I tend to view as 'mine' rather than as gifts from God entrusted to my care?
2. When I face a difficult situation or loss, does my reaction reflect an owner who has lost something, or a steward trusting the ultimate owner?
3. What are my unique talents, abilities, and life experiences, and where might God be calling me to use them for the good of others in my community or church?
4. If my highest calling is to reflect God's character and represent his sovereign rule, what specific area of my life needs the most alignment with that purpose right now?
5. What is one practical step I can take this week to live more like a faithful manager and less like a selfish owner?

It has been a long time since I preached in the book of Genesis because I never preached in the book of Genesis because it is an easy book of the bible that is the book of the bible that talks about him as the creator of life and everything on earth.

"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground. So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"-Genesis 1:26-28

Humans are made in God's image. That's why I say we need to be happy for who we are and on the day you were born. There is no need to have transgender surgery to have a sex change. Tell the person next to you to be proud of who you are. We must like who we are in the world on the day we were born. That's why I strongly opposed the LGBTQ community because it is unlawful to God's kingdom and sinful. I say in my opinion that the things the LGBTQ community do to live in sin makes no sense. If you want to meet new people in your life, all you have to do is let God guide you and direct you to who he wants you to meet and be friends with. It makes no sense being dependable on the world to meet anybody and become friends with people as an extrovert. We need to be introverts like I am to get to know people and let God guide you in your life. God created male and females in his image. We need to understand that Jesus is male. God created females from a rib taken from Adam. Women are described as being created in the image and likeness of God. God causes Adam to fall into a deep sleep. God blessed them and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it. This mandate outlines humanity's purpose to be fruitful and multiply to fill and govern the earth. God's representative rulers or stewards of his creation. This passage suggests a relationship between God and humanity where humans are called to reflect God's character and purpose on Earth.

I felt insecure about my career pursuing a law career about becoming a lawyer and seeking a law career in Chicago. I was not good on tests in school and my test scores were not that high. My test scores were average in school. I did not have high test scores to get into college-level English and Math during my first semester at City Colleges of Chicago. Potential law students have to take the LSAT to get into law school.

"Jesus called them together and said, You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great

among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”-Matthew 20:25-28

James and John through their mother ask Jesus to let them sit on His right and left hand in His kingdom. Jesus asks them if they are able to drink the cup that He is about to drink referring to his suffering. Jesus says they will indeed face persecution, but the positions are not his to give and reserved for those that have been prepared by the Father. The other ten disciples become angry with James and John showing there is still a competitive spirit among them. Jesus explains that true leadership in his kingdom is defined by service and humility. Jesus contrasts the authority of Gentile rulers with His own example of service. We need to prioritize the needs of others by helping the homeless, needy, families and friends that are struggling. We need to act as a servant to others for people in need and dealing with homelessness. We need to live our life by following Jesus' example by making sacrifices to serve and worship God's kingdom. We need to modify our life to God and the Holy Spirit.

- Look for practical ways to serve people
- Be willing to serve without needing praise or recognition
- Actively seek out opportunities to help others
- Rely on God's strength
- Live out your faith practically

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your wisdom and message today.

Give us strength to take this message and honor it this week for the Lord and your kingdom.

You are a giver of all good gifts in our life.

Thank you for your good gifts and breakthroughs that you have given us daily and I will continue to repent for my sins to move the devil out of the way in my daily life on earth.

We will continue to come to you to acknowledge your Lordship over all creation.

We confess that we are not owners, but managers.

Thank you for keeping us from hunger by giving us food and feeding us with your wisdom daily.

We pray against the pull of this world and distractions that close our hands and our hearts, such as lust of the flesh, eyes and pride of life.

Our love is focused on you because you are our source and personal savior over this world.

I ask you to transform our minds after this message this week, so we can be wise and faithful in our hearts and life.

Guide us so our lives can be a perpetual act of worship to your kingdom that is pleasing and acceptable to you.

Help us manage our gifts wisely to avoid losing out on our spot getting into heaven after we die on earth.

In Jesus name, Amen.