

KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP: PURPOSE

Student Notes

Anchor Scripture: Matthew 21:18–22

Supporting Scriptures: John 15:1–8; Genesis 1:11–12; Galatians 5:22–23

1. What Is Kingdom Stewardship?

Kingdom Stewardship is faithfully cultivating everything God entrusts to us because everything ultimately belongs to **Him**.

We are not simply owners. We are **stewards**. God has entrusted us with:

- Our time
- Our gifts
- Our opportunities
- Our relationships
- Our resources
- Our influence
- Our assignments
- Our lives

The Five P's of Kingdom Stewardship

Presence → Purpose → Prompting → Possessions → Person

- Presence — The Temple
- Purpose — The Fig Tree
- Prompting — The Two Sons
- Possessions — The Vineyard and Wicked Tenants
- Person — Jesus Christ

The ultimate goal of Kingdom Stewardship is **manifesting the Person of Christ**.

Inspiration → Revelation → Transformation → Manifestation

2. From Presence to Purpose

Before Purpose comes **Presence**. In Matthew 21:12–17, Jesus entered the Temple and found activity everywhere, but things were occupying space that belonged to God.

Presence requires space. Stewardship determines what gets to occupy it.

Things that can interfere with God's Presence include:

- Familiarity
- Impatience

- Control
- Yesterday's Method
- Distraction

Reflection: What tables are in my temple?

3. The Fig Tree — Matthew 21:18–22

Jesus approached a fig tree that had plenty of **leaves**, but He found no **fruit**. From a distance, the tree looked healthy, alive, and productive. When Jesus came closer, however, He found no fruit.

Purpose Question: What happens when God examines what He has entrusted to us and finds appearance without production?

The tree produced leaves. The problem was that it was not producing **what Jesus was looking for**.

4. Leaves vs. Fruit

KARPOS — καρπός: fruit, produce, yield, or result.

PHYLLON — φύλλον: leaf.

PHYLLON without KARPOS

Leaves without fruit • Appearance without yield • Visibility without result

Purpose Principle: Everything you produce is not necessarily what God planted you to produce.

5. Purpose Is Not Activity

Being **busy** does not automatically mean we are being **purposeful**. We can have titles, followers, positions, degrees, platforms, ministries, connections, and accomplishments—and still need to ask: **Where is the fruit?**

- Busyness vs. fruitfulness
- Visibility vs. impact
- Position vs. purpose
- Applause vs. approval
- Opportunity vs. assignment
- Success vs. obedience

Leaves are not necessarily bad. The problem occurs when leaves become a substitute for fruit.

6. Purpose Begins with Design

Genesis 1:11–12 teaches that God created vegetation and trees to produce fruit **according to their kinds**.

MÎN — מין: kind, type, or species.

What God creates should produce according to what God designed it to be.

God is not asking you to produce somebody else's fruit. **Fruitfulness is not sameness.** Kingdom Stewardship is about faithfully cultivating what God placed in you.

7. Presence Produces Purpose

John 15:4 says, "Remain in me, as I also remain in you."

MEN■ — μένω: remain, stay, continue, dwell, or abide.

Presence is not merely visitation. Presence is habitation.

MEN■ → **KARPOS**

Abiding → Fruit

Presence is the connection. Purpose is what that connection produces.

8. Three Words to Remember

MEN■ — **ABIDE**: Stay connected to Christ.

KARPOS — **FRUIT**: What is your life producing?

MÎN — **KIND**: Are you producing according to God's design?

MEN■ → **KARPOS** → **MÎN**

Abide → Bear Fruit → According to God's Design

Presence asks: Am I abiding?

Purpose asks: What is my life producing?

Stewardship asks: Is what I am producing consistent with what God designed and entrusted to me?

Better question: "What did God design my life to produce?"

9. What Kind of Fruit?

Galatians 5:22–23 identifies the Fruit of the Spirit:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Forbearance/Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

Fruit is not only about what we **accomplish**. It is also about who we are **becoming**.

Ask: Am I becoming more like Christ?

The ultimate fruit of Presence is **transformation**.

10. Leaves Draw Attention — Fruit Sustains People

Leaves may make a tree look impressive, but **fruit serves somebody**. Your wisdom, testimony, leadership, creativity, generosity, teaching, compassion, and experiences can become fruit that helps someone else.

Leaves draw attention. Fruit sustains people.

Ask: Who is supposed to be served by what God put in me?

11. The Purpose Check

What has God entrusted to me?

What am I doing with it?

What is growing because I cultivated it?

Who is being helped because I stewarded it?

What has changed in me because I have been in God's Presence?

Am I becoming more like Christ?

Have I confused leaves with fruit?

12. Manifesting God Principle

Presence reveals Purpose, and Purpose should produce fruit.

Leaves may reveal that you are alive. Fruit reveals what you are living for.

God is calling you to abide in Christ so your life produces according to His design.

13. This Week's Challenge

1. God, what have You entrusted to me?

Think about your gifts, experiences, relationships, opportunities, influence, story, time, and voice.

2. God, what did You intend for this to produce?

3. Where is the fruit?

Final Takeaway

The Temple asks: What is occupying His space?

The fig tree asks: What is being produced from His investment?

Before spending your life trying to grow more leaves, ask God: “What fruit are You looking for from me?”
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My Personal Reflection

One thing I believe God has entrusted to me is:

One type of fruit I want my life to produce is:

One area where I need to abide more deeply in Christ is: