

St Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church
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ADULT CHURCH SCHOOL

“TEMPLATE” OF A STEWARD

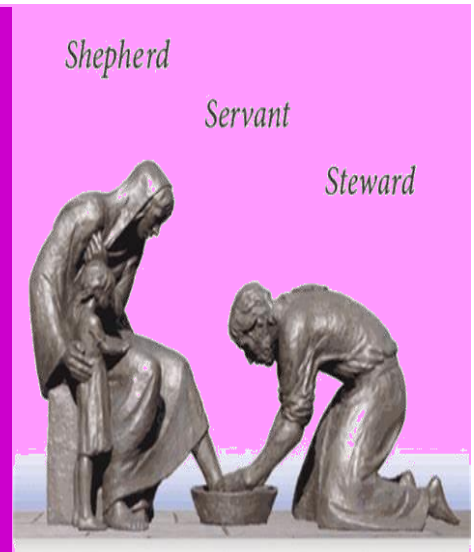
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Christ Our Model: The Model Steward –pages 1- 4

The Character of Jesus & 10 Character Traits of Jesus to Emulate– pages 5 – 9

Stewards: Jesus, the Good Steward & Jesus: The Steward Leader – pages 10 - 13

SPIRITUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT AID



Christ Our Model: The Model Steward

William Seale

“Now, a person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.” 1Corinthians 4:2

During a decade of sales, I met four times a year with the boss to review my activities and my sales progress. Each year, a plan was set out and goals were assigned. Those goals were my responsibility; accountability was required. In other words, I was a steward of my assignments.

This truth is illustrated in **Luke 16:2** when an unfaithful steward was called on the carpet and it was said to him,

“Give an account of your stewardship!”

*So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.’ **Luke 16:2***

He failed with what was entrusted to him.

WHAT IS A STEWARD? It is someone who manages another’s property or estate, something entrusted to him. *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. **1Peter 4:10***

Is that in view with the Lord Jesus? Yes, He is God, the eternal Son, but He made Himself **a servant** to His Father, His God, and then served His people. It is said that the best leader is one who leads by example.

*In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach. **Acts 1:1***

Acts 1:1 reminds us of the order connected with Christ: *“the things He began to do and to teach.” **He first did a thing before He taught others to do it, always the perfect example in everything.*** Let us follow His footsteps! Our text says that a steward must be found or “discovered to be” faithful. It means that he is worthy of trust, is dependable, and inspires trust and faith in others. The description of **Christ’s faithfulness**

stands out in Scripture and is intimately tied to His stewardship. Trying to describe all the things the Lord Jesus did is impossible, and in them all He displayed His perfect stewardship, His absolute trustworthiness. Everything He did was for the Father and the record is there to study and imitate. Let us follow His faithfulness!

STEWARD OF CREATION

So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you. 1Peter 4:19

The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven. Hebrews 1:3

Do you ever look at God's creation, its complexity, beauty, and artistry? How amazing and breathtaking! He watches over it and sustains it and keeps it all together.

STEWARD OF DIVINE PROMISES

God's promises are so precious and unfailingly trustworthy.

If we are unfaithful, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is. 2Timothy 2:13

Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.

Hebrews 10:23

It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. Hebrews 11:11

STEWARD OF THE DIVINE MISSION

Then Jesus explained: "My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work." John 4:34

"And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him."

John 8:29

I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. John 17:4

Then I said, "Look, I have come. As is written about me in the Scriptures: I take joy in doing your will, my God, for your instructions are written on my heart. Psalm 40:7-8

It is wonderful to think of the sheer delight the Lord had in doing and finishing the work that the Father had given to Him to do. **His goal was to bring pleasure to the Father in spite of the awfulness He had to face.**

But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands. Isaiah 53:10

STEWARD OF TIME

Often, we read verses that say "in due time" or "just at the right time." **Everything the Lord did was perfect in its timing; He never wasted time.**

But Jesus replied, “My Father is always working, and so am I.” **John 5:17**

But I have a greater witness than John—my teachings and my miracles. The Father gave me these works to accomplish, and they prove that he sent me. **John 5:36**

We must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent us. The night is coming, and then no one can work. **John 9:4**

STEWARD OF DIVINE JUDGMENT

In addition, the Father judges no one. Instead, he has given the Son absolute authority to judge, **John 5:22**

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.” **Revelation 1:17-18**

“My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Matthew 11:27

The execution of judgment committed to Him will be after long suffering and will be absolutely just.

STEWARD OF GOD’S CHILDREN, HIS SHEEP

Jesus is ever the tender and compassionate One.

*“I am the good **shepherd**; I know my own sheep, and they know me... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one can snatch them away from me, for my Father has given them to me, and he is more powerful than anyone else. No one can snatch them from the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”* **John 10:14, 27-30**

All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

John 17:10-12

Not only is **the Lord Jesus the steward of His own sheep, His people, but He is the perfect steward of all the things that we give to Him.**

That is why I am suffering here in prison. But I am not ashamed of it, for I know the one in whom I trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until the day of his return.

2Timothy 1:12

Thank God, **He keeps our soul, our salvation, the gospel, and our service.**
He lets nothing fail but is always worthy of our trust!

Who Is Jesus Christ?

Many people think Jesus Christ was simply a great teacher. But Christians believe he was far more than a mere human being. His death and resurrection radically changed the course of history. Christ's love allows people to enter into a true and meaningful relationship with God the Father.

Jesus Is . . .

FULLY HUMAN

- He was born as a human baby
- He endured the pains and temptations of humanity
- He suffered a physical and humiliating death

Mark 1:12–13; Luke 2:1–21; Phil. 2:5–8

SINLESS

- He did not sin, even when tempted
- He was undeserving of punishment and death

Matt. 4:1–11; Heb. 4:15

FULLY DIVINE

- He is the Son of God
- He is God incarnate, the “Word” made flesh, who came to earth to redeem humanity

John 1:1, 14; 20:31

THE MESSIAH

- He is the Messiah foretold in Old Testament prophecies
- His kingdom is the kingdom of God, where his followers from all nations are united in love and peace

Isa. 53; Mic. 5:2; Mark 14:61–62; John 4:25–42; 18:36

THE SAVIOR

- Though sinless, he chose to die and receive humanity's punishment for their sin, in order to save them
- Through his resurrection, he conquered death and sin, Satan and hell
- He promises eternal life to those who believe in him

Luke 24:5–7; John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 11:25; Heb. 9:14

THE LAST ADAM

- He provides forgiveness and new life, abolishing the sin and death that Adam brought upon humanity

Gen. 3; Rom. 5:12–21; 1 Cor. 15:21–22, 45–49

THE HIGH PRIEST

- He directly connects people to God
- He was the perfect, sinless, ultimate sacrifice for sin; no other sacrifice or priest is needed for forgiveness from God

Heb. 3:1; 4:14–15; 7:24–27



The Character of Jesus

Babatope Babalobi

SPIRITUAL LIFE

As a Preacher

1. He started preaching at age 12. He loved the Church, He loved to be in the house of the Lord rather than anywhere else. At age 12, he forsook his parents to listen and teach in Jerusalem. **Luke 2:41-52**
2. He preached with power and authority. His word was with power. **Luke 4:32;36**
3. Jesus was a tough preacher, spoke with power and authority, fearless and courageous. He derided the hypocrisy and iniquity of the Pharisees, calling them Serpents and Vipers. **Matthew 23:33**
4. He was a miracle worker, He healed the sick, delivered the demonized from devils, raised the dead, stilled the storm, turned water to wine, broke natural and gravitational laws, and created plenty from few.
5. He was a Church preacher. He preached in the synagogues of Galilee. **Luke 4: 44**
6. His primary message was repentance from sin- **Mathew 4:17**
7. Jesus did not preach primarily financial prosperity neither did he condemn prosperity; but warned that the desire to be rich may lead to covetousness (**Luke 12:15**), and wealth may lead to idolatry
8. He preached against commercialization of the gospel **Matthew 10:8**
9. The themes of these messages are:
 1. Repentance. **Luke 13:5**
 2. Salvation; healing
 3. Deliverance; humility; faith; divine provision. **Luke 12: 22**
 4. Holiness; wisdom; righteousness; grace; and peace. **Luke 12:22**
 5. Refrain from Anger. **Mathew 5:22**
 6. Forgive those that offend you. **Mathew 5:24**
 7. Do not commit lust or Adultery. **Mathew 5:28**
 8. Preached against divorce. **Mark 10:12**
 9. Love thy neighbor. **Mark 12:33**
 10. Humility. **Mark 12:38**

Praying and Fasting

1. He was a prayer warrior, created time regularly to pray alone despite his busy schedule. **Luke 5:16**
2. He prayed in unusual and solitude places for concentration. This includes mountains and wilderness. **Luke 6 :12**
3. He often prayed all night. **Luke 6:12**
4. He stressed the necessity of praying always and in all seasons. **Luke 18:1**

5. He often prayed earnestly such that his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground. **Luke 22:44**
6. He believed in fasting, at one point he fasted for 30 days without eating and drinking in the wilderness. **Luke 4:2**
7. Jesus emphasized prayer and fasting but he also counselled that physical vigilance should not be downplayed in order to overcome temptations and evils. **Matthew 26:41**
8. He was always fasting but also eating food. Jesus favorite food was bread (**Luke 22:19**); his favorite protein was meat or fish(**Luke 24:42**); and his favorite drink was water and non-alcoholic wine or fruit drink (**Luke 22:18**)

Child of God

1. He was baptized by the River Jordan at age 30; in the process subjected himself to all righteousness. **Luke 3:21-23**
2. Angels ministered to him before birth, while in the womb (**Matthew 1:20**), as a baby (**Matthew 1:24; 2:13; 19**), as an adult (**Mark 1:13**), and even in the grave (**Matthew 28:2**).
3. Jesus was always thankful to God and emphasized the need for thanksgiving, questioning why only one leper out of the 10 healed returned to give thanks to God. **Luke 17:17**
4. He attended church services. The Bible records that he went to the synagogue in Nazareth on a Sabbath day as it was the custom and read the Bible lesson from the book of Isaiah. **Luke 4:16**. He also went to Capernaum in Galilee and taught them on a Sabbath day. **Luke 4:31**.
5. He loved the presence of God and taught daily in the temple. **Luke 19:47**
6. He did not harbor malice. He accommodated and ate the Passover with Judas though he knew he will betray him (**Luke 22:21**). He interceded for the forgiveness of those who crucified him. **Luke 23:34**
7. He was spiritually violent and exhibited holy madness of things of the spirit. He made a scourge of small cords and drove out traders as well as money changers from the temple. **Luke 2:14**
8. Jesus was humble. He refused to be described as a good man in spite of his good works, saying only God is good. He rejected the adulation and honor of men, and gave all glory to God. **Luke 18:19**

Teacher

- He was a teacher of the Word and kingdom of God, always fishing for men and women. **Luke 5:1-11**
- He respected the Mosaic priesthood and laws, which he came to fulfil. He taught people to respect same without compromising mercy, love, justice, and holiness. **Mathew 5:17; Luke 5:14**

Deliverer

- He has authority over demons, and casted them out. **Mark 5**
- Demons know him and bow at His name. **Mark 5**
- He never argued with demons, he simply rebuked them. **Mark 1:25**

Academic life

- Jesus was an avid reader. He never went to a formal school, yet the Jews marveled that he was much learned. The explanation is that he spent time to read and learn on his own. **Luke 7:15**

- He is very familiar with scriptures, and quoted it correctly. He knows appropriate scriptures for each situation. He defeated the temptation of the devil with the word of God. **Luke 4:1-13**
- He was always speaking by parables, using it to explain his narratives. **Luke 8:4**. His famous parables include Parable of the Sower, Fig tree, foolish virgins,

Organizational life

- Jesus preached perfection and excellence. **Mathew 5:48**
- He was an early riser, always waking up early to pray. **Mathew 1:35**
- He was a team leader, never walked alone. He had close associates out of which he choose 12 Apostles- **Luke 6:12-16**. The Apostles were always with him.
- He also had a team of 70 evangelists who he sent in twos to preach the gospel. **Luke 10:1**
- He spiritually empowered his disciples- **Luke 9:1**. He not only delegated duties to a team of 12 apostles, and 70 evangelists, but also gave them spiritual power to execute the assignments. -**Luke 10:19**.
- He also spiritually empowered anyone that believes in his name. **John 1:12**
- He sent out his disciples in twos, not in ones. **Mathew 6:7**
- He confided in his disciples and told them stories. **Mark 10:32**
- Jesus was not a workaholic. He took time to rest. He slept to regain his energy. He was found sleeping sound even in the stormy wind and water was raging on the lake, and the ship was filled with water. **Luke 8:22-23**
- Jesus led a disciplined, Spartan, and regimented lifestyle. During the day he preached in the temples, at nights he climbed to the mountain -at times Mount Olives to pray. This was his daily routine. **Luke 21:37**
- He related with his disciples as colleagues, he was not aloof. He ate breakfasts, suppers, and dinners with them including the Passover. **Mark 14:12**
- He sang hymns with his disciples. **Mark 14:26**
- Jesus is wisdom personified, his speeches were seasoned with parables, and his response to adversaries were apt. The Pharisees got tired of trying to trap him through his words and left him alone. **Luke 20:26**
- He avoided arrests. He did not want to be arrested and his ministry stopped before his time – **Luke 4:41**. He hid himself when the Jews wanted to stone him. **John 8:59**
- Jesus was not fearful. He was always calm in face of crises. He was fast asleep even when his ship was sleeping on the lake. **Luke 8: 22-23**
- Jesus encourages prudence and discouraged wastes. He instructed his disciples to gather the leftovers after the feeding five thousand with bread and fishes. 12 baskets of barleys were saved in the process. **John 6:12**
- Jesus was not talkative. He was patient in listening and responding to queries. He did not talk in a hurry. He was a good listener, and picked his response slowly and carefully. He took his time to respond when he was asked to judge the woman caught in the very act of adultery, and when he was accused by false witnesses before his crucifixion. **Mark 14:61; John 8:7**
- Jesus does not stigmatize or condemn on account of past sins or misdeeds. He refused to condemn the woman caught in the very act of adultery though her accusers wanted to stone her to death. **John 8:11**

- He was humble to a fault, washed the feet of his disciples to demonstrate the master should be a servant. **John 13:14**
- Jesus never handled money directly. He delegated this duty to Judas, who unfortunately was stealing the money. **John 13:35**

Social Life

- He had friends including a Centurion. **Luke 7:2**
- Jesus had wealthy disciples among which was Joseph of Arimathea who received the body of Jesus from Pilate and buried it in a new tomb. **Mathew 27:57**
- He attended dinners; with a Pharisee. **Luke 7:36**
- He fed the hungry. **Luke 9:13**
- He was loved and helped by women. He had a devout group of women that followed him and ministered substance to him. These included Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna – **Luke 8:2-3**; also Mary the sister of Martha- **Luke 11:39**; Mary the mother of James, Joses, and Salome. **Mark 15:40**
- He keep and honored friendship. His close friends are Martha, who he loved, her sister- Mary, and Lazarus- **Luke 11: 5**. He risked his life to travel to Judea to resurrect Lazarus from the death, even when Jews had planned to stone him to death. **John 11: 7-8**
- Jesus loved children and wants to be in their company. **Luke 18:16**
- He was the friend of sinners. He was not judgmental. He associated with sinners and a good mixer with unbelievers so he could have an opportunity to preach to them. **Luke 5:32**
- Jesus visited Zacchaeus, described as Chief Publican, a clubber and drinker. He stressed to several that he came to save unbelievers- **Luke 19:7**. His greatest friends were sinners. **Luke 15:2**.
- He socialized. He honored a wedding invitation and saved the couple from embarrassment when wine was in short supply. **John 2:2**
- Jesus had a good taste. He did not celebrate poverty. He went for good things. He asked his disciples to bring a brand new colt which he rode triumphantly to Jerusalem. **Luke 19:30**; he ate the Passover with his disciples in a well-furnished large upper room. **Luke 22:12**
- Jesus appreciated nice smelling perfume. He did not discourage Mary from anointing him with a very costly perfume with a strong fragrance. **John 12: 3**
- He had a dwelling place though an itinerant preacher. **John 1:39**.
- Jesus paid taxes. **Matthew 17:27**

Family life

- Jesus respected his mother, but did not accord her special recognition deserving of being worshipped or idolized. He says: My mother and brethren are these which hear the Word of God and do it. **Luke 8:21; Luke 11:28**
- He was closed to his mother, and she always followed him around. She followed him to the wedding in Cana of Galilee. **John 2:2**

10 Character Traits of Jesus to Emulate – Michael Krauszer

Christians and non-Christians alike usually can agree that Jesus is the best role model to have. From His faith, perseverance, generosity, and even His intelligence, people see the best qualities that mankind can possess. The Bible teaches everyone to become more like Jesus each and every day, so it is helpful to learn about some of the character traits He had. The following is a list of 10 character traits of Jesus that everyone should emulate.

<p>1) Compassionate: Jesus never looked away from people; He always looked upon them and had compassion (Matthew 9:36). Whenever people were around him, Jesus understood what their real needs were and sought to address them. For some, physical healing was necessary, for others the root issue was spiritual. In all cases though, Jesus took the time to actually <i>notice</i> that people were hurting—and His compassion drove Him to help them.</p>	<p>2) Servant: Without a doubt, Jesus was the ultimate servant. Although He was praised as a great teacher and even had a decent following, He made sure to teach them to be servants by actually doing it himself. In Mark 10:45, Jesus even tells everyone: <i>“the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve”</i> Despite having the authority to get anything He wanted, have people praise and pamper him, He did the exact opposite by lowering himself and serving others.</p>	<p>3) Loving: Obviously, Jesus had a love for others. If He didn’t, He wouldn’t be compassionate nor a servant. Jesus claimed that there is no greater love than to die for one of your friends—and He did just that. If anyone doubts His love, all they have to do is look upon the cross and see the agony that He bore for their sakes. He experienced that horrible death so that all can be saved. That, very clearly, is true love at its finest.</p>
<p>4) Forgiving: One of the most startling things said in Scripture is found in Luke 23:34, when Jesus is on the cross and proclaims: <i>“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”</i> Even while bleeding and experiencing pain, Jesus had His heart set on forgiveness—even forgiving those who put Him there in the first place! This is definitely contrary to the everyday mantra of looking out for number one and obtaining personal justice. Jesus was by no means concerned for His own life; all He wanted was to provide a way for forgiveness.</p>	<p>5) Committed: Jesus had no lack of commitment whatsoever. Wherever He was, or whoever He was with, He was fully in the moment and fully committed to His goals. Despite praying fervently in the garden of Gethsemane to avoid having to bear the cross and all that physical torture, He knew it was the only way to pay for everyone’s sins, so He stayed completely committed to His goal. There were certainly many obstacles during His ministry, but He stayed on track and finished strong.</p>	<p>6) Prayerful: No matter how busy His ministry got, He found time to be alone and pray. Whether it is in the garden of Gethsemane, across a river, or on a mountaintop, Jesus disappeared for a while in order to pray to the Lord. People always tried to find Him, and He never turned them away, but He also made sure to make time spent with His heavenly Father a priority.</p>
<p>7) Gentleness: There were certainly times where Jesus used stern words, but He knew when gentleness was appropriate. Children seemed to love coming to him, and He made sure the disciples knew not to hinder them when they did so. When speaking with His disciples, mother, or other ladies, He could be very kindhearted and gentle. But, when He was giving someone a rebuke or making a point in an argument, He knew when turning up the heat was necessary and only did so strategically.</p>	<p>8) Patience: Throughout the gospels, Jesus clearly gets portrayed as a very patient man. After all, He was surrounded by disciples who constantly doubted him, Pharisees and Sadducees who continually attacked Him, and large crowds who wouldn’t leave Him alone. Despite all of that, He kept His composure and responded appropriately to every individual.</p>	<p>9) Self-Control: Before His ministry was launched, Jesus spent time being tempted by the Devil in the wilderness. Although He was offered food, power, and many other things, Jesus controlled His desires and submitted them all to the will of the Father. Yes, He had desires for food and such, but He had a greater desire to obey the Lord and accomplish what He set out to do.</p>
<p>10) Humble Jesus had every opportunity and right to demand praise and accolades for His miracles and teachings, but He never did! Even when the crowds sought to make Him king, He rushed away from their grasp. He did not want to become a sideshow performance that people could enjoy. Rather, He wanted to seek and save the lost and offer forgiveness for sinful people. Yes, He could have traveled around in order to show off His powers in other towns, but He chose not to.</p>		

Final Thoughts

The world doesn’t need more role models, it needs more of Jesus—the ultimate role model. People will not find a better person to emulate positive character traits from than Jesus Christ himself.

Stewards: Jesus - The Good Steward

Stewardship.org

Lord Jesus Christ *the good steward*.

Writing of Jesus, Paul fills **Philippians 2:6-8** with a perfect summation of the Son of God's character:

Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Jesus voluntarily chose to empty himself. He was the master who became a **humble, perfect steward** in order that we might find favor with God. Earlier, the gospel of John tells us that Jesus was 'with God in the beginning' as 'the word' (**John 1:1-2**),

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God.

...transformed to become flesh (**John 1:14**) just like us.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

All of which has great implications for us as potential stewards. **How can we look down on another, knowing that God Himself chose to become humbly human?** Surely, if Jesus did not hesitate to cross physical, cultural and emotional barriers for the sake of the Gospel, we should not hold back either.

Jesus, the perfect steward, gave up all He had and died to make us whole. He became a **leader** who **served**, spurned earthly power and in doing so offers us **a clear model to follow**. Each of us is **built by God to serve** our friends, our family, our community, our Creator, our enemies and our natural world.

In *The Great Sin* (a section of *Mere Christianity*), C.S. Lewis states:

"If we find... life is making us feel that we are good - above all, that we are better than someone else - I think we can be sure that we are being acted on, not by God, but by the Devil."

That was me. As a twin I have been - almost since birth - competitive. It was never enough for me to simply win the argument, race, or football match, but I had to destroy my opponent in the process, to end up the victor looking down on my opponent. Thankfully, I encountered Jesus' model of stewardship. He who had 'equality with God' gave up everything to be one of us so that we should be moved to close any distance, whether perceived or real, between us and others. This was the model that led me to a real and radical change. I became a steward, and as a Christian my need to win no longer dominates. I still enjoy winning, but I no longer *need* it.

As well as no longer looking down upon others, **stewards proactively represent their master**. Jesus' death on the cross was an act of humble service of God. As well as being the model for His disciples' life, it remains ours as well. Expanding this notion of **servant leadership**, Paul urges his brothers and sisters:

“...I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Romans 12:1-2

As God’s stewards we are to do His will - His good and perfect will. And when we do so, **we follow Jesus’ model of serving the master.** For the truth within all of this is clear: **a steward is both a ruler and servant, one who exists to please his master.**

So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man on the cross, then you will understand that I AM he. I do nothing on my own but say only what the Father taught me. And the one who sent me is with me—he has not deserted me. For I always do what pleases him.” **John 8:28-29**

We would do well to pause here and absorb the magnitude of this apparently simple, self-evident truth: **stewards please their master.** Jesus pleased His Father **perfectly.** He did not withhold love, He did not look down, He did nothing but serve the Father. **He is the standard of the good steward.**

JESUS: THE STEWARD LEADER

Zenet Maramara

The term **“steward leader”** suggests that the leader is not the owner but **a trustee** of the leadership responsibilities entrusted to him or to her. He/she is a steward leader and as opposed to an owner-leader.

JESUS IS THE PERFECT MODEL OF A STEWARD LEADER.

His heart and mind were **focused on the will of God.** In difficult times, Jesus draws strength by praying to the Father in solitude. When he was about to face his death and predicted that his disciples will be scattered and he will be left alone, he reminded himself that he will not be alone because he has the Father,

But the time is coming—indeed it’s here now—when you will be scattered, each one going his own way, leaving me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. **John 16:32**

LEADING LIKE JESUS IS LEADING WITH TRUTH AND HUMILITY.

Jesus’ humility stems from **knowing who he is, where he came from.** Jesus **always acted to glorify the Father.** He did not speak of his own authority but the Father who sent him,

I don’t speak on my own authority. The Father who sent me has commanded me what to say and how to say it. **John 12:49**

Therefore, **no words came out of his mouth that was not from God.** Jesus was obedient to the command of God in what he should speak and say. As a leader, Jesus did not pursue his own agenda but always that of God.

A steward leader cannot lead like Jesus if his or her heart is full of pride and self-interest. Ken Blanchard in his book, **Lead Like Jesus,** states that

“The most persistent barrier to leading like Jesus is a heart motivated by self-interest.”

He explains that people with hearts motivated by self-interest put their own agenda, safety, status, and gratification ahead of those affected by their thoughts and actions.

Not so with Jesus who says *“I do as the Father has commanded me.”*

... But I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let's be going. John 14:31

In **John 5:19** Jesus says that the son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.

LEADING LIKE JESUS IS LEADING WITH SECURITY AND CONFIDENCE.

As a steward leader, Jesus is **secure in his relationship and position with God**. He knows that he comes from God and is going back to God

Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. John 13:3

He can stoop down and wash the apostles' feet—a lowly task of a servant—and yet this was Jesus' model of leadership that **the leader is a servant to others**

Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus with her sons. She knelt respectfully to ask a favor. “What is your request?” he asked. She replied, “In your Kingdom, please let my two sons sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left.” But Jesus answered by saying to them, “You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink?” “Oh yes,” they replied, “we are able!” Jesus told them, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. My Father has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.” When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mathew 20:20-28

I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. John 13:16

Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. John 13:17

Jesus led through example of his life that is anchored on personal integrity and genuine love and concern for people

But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. Mark 10:43-44

Bible Easter Trivia I

Put an "x" beside the answer you think is right!

1. Jesus said that before the rooster crowed twice Peter would do what?

- ☐ a. Leave the city
- ☐ b. Deny Christ three times
- ☐ c. Accept a bribe
- ☐ d. Kill a centurion

2. Where was Jesus arrested?

- ☐ a. A garden
- ☐ b. A temple
- ☐ c. His home
- ☐ d. The Upper Room

3. When Jesus was arrested, who cut off the ear of the high priest's servant?

- ☐ a. James
- ☐ b. John
- ☐ c. Peter
- ☐ d. Andrew

4. Judas betrayed Jesus for how many pieces of silver?

- ☐ a. 10
- ☐ b. 20
- ☐ c. 30
- ☐ d. 40

5. What sign did Judas use to betray Christ?

- ☐ a. A hug
- ☐ b. A kiss
- ☐ c. A handshake
- ☐ d. A salute

6. Which prisoner was released instead of Jesus?

- ☐ a. Philip
- ☐ b. Barabbas
- ☐ c. Barnabas
- ☐ d. John the Baptist

7. Where was Jesus crucified?

- ☐ a. Golgotha
- ☐ b. Dolorosa
- ☐ c. Gethsemane
- ☐ d. Domine Ivisus

8. In whose tomb was Jesus buried?

- ☐ a. Mary Magdalene's
- ☐ b. Lazarus'
- ☐ c. Joseph of Arimathea's
- ☐ d. John the disciple's

9. Who ordered Jesus to be arrested?

- ☐ a. Pilate
- ☐ b. Caiaphas
- ☐ c. Caesar
- ☐ d. Herod

10. Before His crucifixion, what was placed on Jesus' head?

- ☐ a. A golden crown
- ☐ b. Purple cloth
- ☐ c. Crown of thorns
- ☐ d. Crown of thistles

11. On what charge was Jesus sentenced to death?

- ☐ a. Blasphemy
- ☐ b. Lying
- ☐ c. Treason
- ☐ d. Tyranny

12. For what did the soldiers cast lots?

- ☐ a. The Cross
- ☐ b. Jesus' clothes
- ☐ c. Money
- ☐ d. Jesus' hair

13. Who wanted to see the nail marks in Jesus hands before they believed he was alive?

- ☐ a. Thomas
- ☐ b. Peter
- ☐ c. Nicodemus
- ☐ d. Judas

14. Three disciples were with Jesus at the time of his arrest. Who were they?

- ☐ a. Matthew, Mark, Luke
- ☐ b. Peter, James, John
- ☐ c. Thomas, James, Bartholomew
- ☐ d. Peter, Mark, John

15. What was written on the sign above Jesus' cross?

- ☐ a. Friend of Sinners
- ☐ b. Prophet of the Jews
- ☐ c. King of the Jews
- ☐ d. King of the World



SPIRITUAL SELF-ASSESSMENT AID

– adapted from **Bible Questions.org**

This is a sampling of self-assessment questions. It is mainly focusing on sins of omission & growth areas for Christians. It was designed to help a person assess portions of their spiritual health to identify areas of improvement.

Instructions: Find some quiet, private time for prayer and self-reflection. Recognize doing a self-assessment and/or being confronted with negative results can be somewhat painful, but necessary for improvement and growth. Read each question. *(Some questions are oriented toward people in particular relationships – ignore if not applicable).*

Select 1 of the 4 possible answers.

AREA AND QUESTIONS	DANGER	POOR	BETTER	BEST
ATTENDANCE	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I look forward to attending worship service				
I consider God when selecting what to wear				
I attend worship service more than once a week				
I attend Church School				
I attend Bible Study on Wednesday nights				
I arrive on time				
I greet visitors				
I consider how to avoid distracting others during worship				
WORSHIP - ANNOUNCEMENTS	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I take note about those who are absent				
I pray about those who are absent				
I contact those who are absent				
WORSHIP - SINGING	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I pay attention to the words in the songs				
I am emotionally moved by the singing				
WORSHIP - PRAYER	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I pay attention to the words in the prayers				
I am moved by the words in the prayers				
WORSHIP – LORD’S SUPPER	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I pay attention to the words before the Lord’s Supper				
I remain focused on Christ’s sacrifice during the Supper				
I am emotionally moved by the Lord’s Supper				
WORSHIP – CONTRIBUTION	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I consider my physical blessings before services				
I pay attention to the words before giving				
I am emotionally moved by the giving				
My giving impacts what I can spend in other areas				
WORSHIP – PREACHING	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I pay attention to what is being said				
I make mental or physical notes				
I try to make personal application of the sermon				
I feel encouraged by the sermon to do what is right				
AFTER WORSHIP	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I stay after services to get to know people better				
I say something encouraging to other Christians				
I socialize with fellow Christians during the week				
I help fellow Christians when the need arises				
I discuss spiritual matters with fellow Christians				
I humbly approach other Christians if they are doing something questionable or inappropriate				
I volunteer when something needs to be done around the building				

AREA AND QUESTIONS	DANGER	POOR	BETTER	BEST
PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I study my lesson for Church School				
I read the Bible weekly				
I read the Bible daily				
I study the Bible weekly				
I study the Bible daily				
PERSONAL PRAYER	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I pray daily				
I pray daily, besides giving thanks at mealtimes				
I mention specific people and situations in my prayers				
I am emotionally moved during my prayer time				
DAILY LIVING	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I am thankful for God's blessings during my day				
I select entertainment with God in mind				
I select friends with God in mind				
I select my clothes with God in mind				
I select my words with God in mind				
I drive with God in mind				
I look for opportunities to serve others				
I apply Scriptures to difficult situations I may be facing				
MARITAL RELATIONSHIPS	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I show respect towards my spouse				
I put the needs of my spouse ahead of my own needs				
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS - PARENTS	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I encourage my children to study the Bible				
I study the Bible with my children, daily				
I daily talk about spiritual matters with my children				
I expect my children to know as much, or more, about spiritual matters than academics				
I encourage my children to memorize Bible verses				
I encourage my children to pay attention during worship				
FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS - CHILDREN	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I always try to respect my parents				
WORK AND SCHOOL RELATIONSHIPS	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I do my work diligently with God in mind				
I show respect to those in authority around me				
I apply scripture to difficult work situations				
CIVIL RELATIONSHIPS	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I always try to obey civil laws				
I show respect to those in authority around me				
I seek opportunities to exercise my civil rights, with God in mind.				
PERSONAL EVANGELISM	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I casually mention spiritual matters to non-Christians				
I invite others to visit our church's website				
I suggest scripture to a non-Christian facing a difficult situation				
I offer spiritual material to others (via email, social media, etc.)				
I invite others to worship services and/or Bible Study				
I use social media to encourage others with spiritual matters				
GROWTH	RARELY	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS
I think about spiritual areas where I need to grow				
I make specific plans to address areas of growth				
I successfully execute growth plans				

Once you have answered the questions above:

DANGER: Look at the questions with an answer in the column labelled, “**Danger.**” These suggest sins of omission – things you need to be doing, as a faithful Christian, as abilities & opportunities permit.

POOR: Look at the questions with answers in the column labelled, “**Poor.**” These suggest areas of greatest potential for growth & improvement. For areas that need attention, **pick the more important 1 or 2.** Study the associated references and **write down specific actions to be taken over the next 30 days.** Get started and **log your progress.** When done, **reflect and repeat the process.**

WARNINGS! DO NOT...

- Take this assessment if you are not a Christian
- View this as a complete set of assessment questions. It is only a starting point
- View having many marks to the right as a guarantee of heaven or of being “good enough.”
- Think that marks to the right in some areas offset marks in the left-most column. Good deeds do not wipe out sins of omission
- Compare marks with others. Remember **2 Corinthians 10:12** “...*Oh, don’t worry; we wouldn’t dare say that we are as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, using themselves as the standard of measurement. How ignorant!*”

REMINDERS

- This self-assessment is meant to be a **practical aid to help you identify areas of improvement**
- This assessment **has limitations.** It is not inspired or perfect, but based on God’s Word. It is designed for Christians only – and it does not assess how to become saved. It does not focus on “sins of commission” –things faithful Christians should be avoiding
- **Watch your attitude closely.** “... *‘We are unworthy slaves; we have done only that which we ought to have done.’*” (**Luke 17:10**)
- **Keep in mind the “Gold” standard.** “*And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ... soul... mind... strength.*” (**Mark 12:30-31**)



TO BE LIKE JESUS

To be like Jesus
To be like Jesus
All I ask...
To be like Him
All through Life's
journey
From Earth to Glory
All I ask ...
To be like Him.

To be like Jesus
To be like Jesus
All I ask...
To be like Him
Not in a measure
But in its fullness
All I ask ...
To be like Him.

AUTHOR- UNKNOWN