

Bridgeway Community Church
Mr. Kevin Turpin II
Series: His Excellency
November 6, 2022

**His Excellency:
“Stewarding the Excellence of God”**

I. GREETINGS

Good morning again Bridgeway. I would like to start by sending greetings to our Pastor Dr. David Anderson, who is out of town this week. Thank you for trusting me to hold down the fort while you are away. We are in week two of our two-week series entitled His Excellency! Last week we discussed the topic of “Choosing the Excellence of God.” We learned when we choose God’s excellence, He is faithful to make us 10 times better in every area of our lives. This week our topic is going to be “Stewarding the Excellence of God.” Once we choose to live our life in His excellence, we have a responsibility to steward the gifts, resources, and opportunities that come with His excellency well. Before we unpack this topic today, let's bow for a word of prayer.

Prayer

II. INTRODUCTION

“Each day is God’s gift to you. What you do with it is your gift to Him,” said TD Jakes.

We spoke last week about the daily tension we all live in between choosing the ways of the world and choosing the excellence of God. We choose daily to not conform to the patterns of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:2). This daily battle between the Spirit of God and our fleshly desires determines the true power we walk in on earth. When we surrender to God’s way, we receive His excellent gifts. However, our responsibility does not stop at our surrender. Once we receive God’s excellence we must be good stewards to see an increase of His glory in our lives. How many of you are like me and desire to see a double, triple, quadruple portion of God’s glory in your life? Amen

Key Text:

***6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. (2 Corinthians 4:6-9 KJV)***

Key Verse:

7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

We are just the vessels that He chooses to work his power through, but I deeply believe He will only give us treasure in proportion to our ability to be effective stewards.

Biblical Reference (Summarized):

Parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30 NIV)

To gain a deeper understanding of what it means to steward God's excellence I thought it would be helpful for us all to be operating from the same definition of stewardship.

Stewardship Definition:

The conducting, supervising, or managing of something *especially* : the CAREFUL and RESPONSIBLE management of something entrusted to one's care.

- Metaphor for stewardship: Caring for a newborn baby
- Scripture references:
 - ***10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."***
(1 Samuel 3:10 NIV)
 - ***13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. (Exodus 14:13 NIV)***

Transition:

- Paint the picture of good vs. bad stewardship of God's excellence through comparison of King David to King Saul
- Scripture References:
 - Saul's squandered opportunity (1 Samuel 13:13 NIV):
13 "You have done a foolish thing," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time.
 - David's received promise from the Lord (2 Samuel 7:16 NIV):

16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

III. THREE WAYS TO STEWARD THE EXCELLENCE OF GOD IN OUR LIVES

1. Live according to His purpose for our lives
 - o **Romans 8:28 (NIV):**
16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me[a]; your throne will be established forever.
 - o Share Dad's LEC story
 - o *Key points*
 - Pray daily for God to reveal his purpose for you
 - Make the shift from self-centered to God centered
 - Recognize that God is the creator and owner of purpose
2. Prioritize God's internal work in us
 - o **Philippians 1:6 (NIV):**
6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - o King David was a man after God's own heart because of his submission to God's work inside of his heart
 - Scripture references
 - **Psalms 51:10 (NIV):**
***Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.***
 - **Psalms 139:23-24 (NIV):**
***Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
24 See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting***
 - Key points
 - God owns the good work in us
 - Our only responsibility is to submit to this work
 - The internal work that only God can do, will be reflected in us producing external good fruit (Stay connected to the vine)
3. Live to bring Him glory
 - o **2 Corinthians 9:13 (KJV):**

Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men...

- o Key points
 - Seek to expand his Kingdom first
 - When he brings you glory, give Him the glory

Conclusion:

As we conclude this series, I want to answer the question, What is this all for? Why does God desire to display greater and greater works of his excellence through us as we steward well?

I believe the answer is so he can prepare trustworthy laborers that will reap the harvest of souls that Jesus came for. Turn with me to **Matthew 9:36-38 (NIV)**...

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them,(A) because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

- Key Points:
 - o The excellence of God is meant to rescue the harassed and helpless, not the comfortable and prideful
 - o Live to reap the harvest that Jesus came for not destroy it

IV. THREE PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Three practical ways to use the excellence of God to reap His excellent harvest...

1. Defend and Protect the harvest
2. Heal the wounds of the harvest
3. Connect the harvest to Jesus (not religion)

Closing:

I started today by sharing this quote, “Each day is God’s gift to you. What you do with it is your Gift to him.” I want to up the ante. God’s excellence is a free gift to you, lives and souls are relying on you to steward it well. I hope you all will join me in stewarding the gift of God’s excellence to make it better for every helpless and harassed soul that God has assigned to our lives. One day we all will sit at the throne of our King, Jesus, worshiping His Excellency together forever.