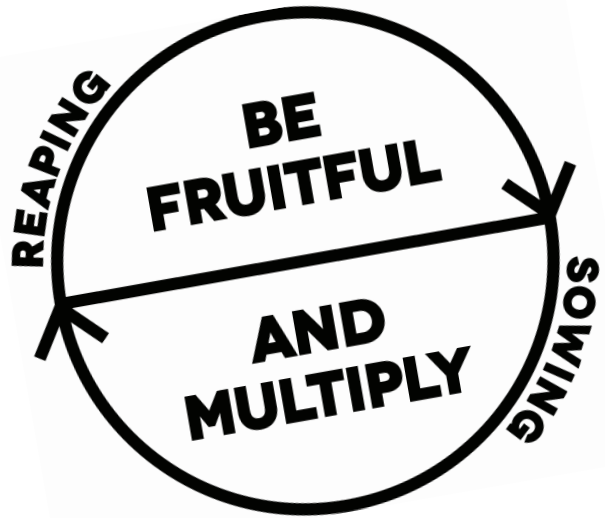


Resurrecting Generosity

PART SIX



- We recognize we are not the _____ of the earth, but God has given us authority to _____ its resources.
- This has to do with _____. A steward is one who has been given authority to manage another's property, finances, or other affairs. And God *has* given us the authority to manage His world! (Psalm 8:3-6)

Matthew 25:26-29 To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

Mismanagement:

1. **Traps us in a** _____. Our ongoing attempts to repair our fruitfulness are futile because we haven't addressed the root cause.
2. **Destroys our ability to** _____. The fruit God has brought to our lives has run through our fingers, so there is simply nothing left to multiply.
3. **Steals our** _____. We feel like we're stuck on a hamster wheel, continually running but not catching up.

Romans 13:7-8 Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority. *Owe nothing to anyone*—except for your obligation to love one another.

Proverbs 22:7 ...the borrower is the slave of the lender.

- Debt _____ us. It takes from us our freedom to choose what we'll do with our resource because we're legally obligated to pay our debts.

This summer, consumer debt in America rose to \$4.1 trillion.

Three things drive the majority of consumer debt:

1. _____ . Last year 70 million Americans had \$682 billion in credit card debt that was not paid in full each month. This cost them \$113 billion in interest — a 49% increase in five years.
2. _____ . In 2019 the outstanding auto loan debt in America hit more than \$1.174 trillion — a 30% increase in five years.
3. _____ . Currently, 45 million people have student loans that total \$1.52 trillion. The average debt per borrower is \$35,359 — a 26% increase in five years.

Moving from mismanagement to good stewardship:

1. **Own our** _____ . In humility we need to admit where we've mismanaged God's resources and ask Him for forgiveness.
2. **Cry out for** _____ . Ask God for miracle breakthrough, and others for wisdom.
3. **Be** _____ . It likely took some time to get into debt and will take a while to get out. What does God want to teach us during this time?
4. **Start** _____ . Don't wait for better circumstances. Do what you can right now. Zechariah 4:10 "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin..."

