

Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.



Rice Fields, Kenya

The Stewardship of the Gospel

Some time ago I was invited to a conference on healing. I would be one of three speakers on God's covenant of healing and healing power. I was glad to participate because for over seven years I taught divine healing almost weekly. I love to share this wonderful truth. When the promotion material on the conference arrived, I noticed it was billed as a conference on the stewardship of healing. I thought and thought about that. What was the stewardship of healing? What does that mean? I understood the will of God to heal all men and I understood the power of God available through our faith. But, what was the stewardship of healing?

The only way I had ever heard the word stewardship was in reference to money. When I was a child, many churches had a yearly stewardship banquet. The church wanted you to fill out a pledge card indicating your intention to support them in the next year. After you took time to pray and meditate on your commitment, you would bring your card to the stewardship banquet or commitment service. So, in my heart stewardship was always tied to money. But, I am not going to talk to you about money. Isn't that interesting? As I studied the scripture, I discovered that stewardship was a very big word, a very broad word. It includes so much more than money. I was surprised.

The word steward is used a number of times in Scripture. Abraham had a steward named Eliezer. Before Abraham and Sarah had a child and before they understood the promise of God to provide a son, Abraham said to the Lord, "I go childless and



Wayne and Becky Combee, Nairobi, Kenya

Eliezer, the steward of my house will be my heir." Eliezer and his children would be the beneficiaries of Abraham's wealth because Abraham and Sarah had no children.

The word steward used of Eliezer in Genesis 15:2 is defined in the Hebrew language as "the man over the house." As Abraham's steward or "man over the house," Eliezer was responsible for all the household goods. He was the manager, the overseer, and ruler of Abraham's possessions. He



Scottish Blackface Sheep

was “in charge”. Now you are probably the ruler of your house. You rule over your property. You rule over any repairs to your home. You rule over the pantry, the groceries and the shopping. You rule over all your finances. But in this

major household, there was a steward, Eliezer. The scripture says that Abraham’s eldest servant (who undoubtedly was Eliezer) “ruled over all that he had.” When he went to find a wife for Isaac, he took ten of Abrahams’ camels with him because “all the goods of his master were in his hands.”

King David also had stewards. Remember, a steward is one who manages, one who controls, or one who is responsible for the household and goods of another. When King David assembled his men, he called for his sons, his princes, his captains, his mighty men and “the stewards over all the substance and possession of the king.” King David had stewards over all his “stuff,” someone in charge of his “stuff,” someone that ruled his “stuff.” These stewards had access to everything in David’s house.



Students, Kenya Bible Training Centre, Embu

Joseph is another steward I find most interesting. When Joseph was sold into slavery, he was bought by Potiphar and became the steward or overseer of Potiphar’s house. The Scripture says Potiphar “left all that he had in Joseph’s hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat.” Can you imagine? Potiphar did not know what he owned. The only thing Potiphar knew was what he ate for dinner. They fed him two or three times a day and he knew

there was food for himself and his household. That was all he knew. Who then ruled over all Potiphar’s possessions? Who inventoried all his goods? Who superintended the fields? Who paid the servants? It was Joseph. He was the steward of the household.

This concept of stewardship is very important when we turn to the New Testament. In First Corinthians

4:1 the Apostle Paul said, “Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Did you notice the phrase, “stewards of the mysteries of God?” The Apostle Paul identified himself as a steward of the mystery of God.



Pastor Angelo and Purity Njagi

You might think that designation just applied to him because he was a minister. But if we turn to Matthew 28:19-20, we read “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations.” Who does that verse commission as the custodians of this glorious Gospel? Was this word of the Lord only for the early disciples? Was it only for men who “live of the Gospel?” Was it only for first century ministers like the Apostle Paul? Or, does it apply to you and I?

I believe we are commissioned to “Go” into all the world and make disciples. We are also stewards of the Gospel. We are distributors, managers, and overseers of God’s good news. As we understand what Jesus Christ accomplished by His death and resurrection, we’re ambassadors of that mystery. We are responsible for the distribution of the word of the Lord. Just like an employee is accountable to his employer to do the job assigned to him, we are God’s children who declare His love and His power to save. Isn’t that correct? Yes, “we are ambassadors for Christ,” and God does beseech men through our testimony. This is our stewardship!

Be sure to visit our webpage in the upcoming weeks for additional photos and videos from Becky and Wayne’s trip to Scotland & Kenya!