

# GENESIS: THE BEGINNING IS NOT THE END

## The Perks of Being a Manager

TEXT: Genesis 2

INTRODUCTION:

**First two principles:**

- **God is the owner of everything.**
- **God made man and woman His managers.**

This morning I want us to see The Perks of Being a Manager.

- We should understand, God did not have to make us managers, stewards of all He had made.
- He could have made us androids of flesh and bone without any free will who would automatically do His bidding.
- But He didn't. God made us in His image, which among other things, means we have our own mind, and we are capable of making choices.

### I. GOD INTENDS FOR HIS MANAGERS TO HAVE GOOD BENEFITS.

- A. Imagine God's first two managers of His creation: Adam and Eve.  
Just try to picture them in the beautiful garden God created.

Genesis 2:15–19 15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." 18 And the LORD God said, "*It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.*" 19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was its name*

1. Beautiful Garden of Eden – beautiful, fascinating with all plant and animal life
2. Plentiful variety of food
3. Productive work
4. Companionship, love, intimacy, sex
5. Good Health – live forever!

Does the picture the Scripture gives us here give us the impression

- That God was stingy with His blessings for His newly installed managers?
- Does it appear God wanted them to start in the small office waiting to see if they deserved the big corner suite upstairs?

Just the opposite.

- **God gave His managers the very best.**
- **Nothing was lacking for their good or their enjoyment of God's creation.**

But you are probably thinking, but that is not the way it is now. And of course you are right.

- God's managers decided to do things their way instead of God's way.
- That was disobedience.
- That was sin.
- Sin brought about the deterioration of everything.
  - Sin removed them from the garden.
  - Sin made their work difficult.
  - Sin ultimately even caused the destruction of the Garden of Eden in the flood.

We'll stop there, because this sermon is not about the consequences of sin. We will look at that later in detail, but I have to mention it now because we all know our daily lives are not like the day Adam and Eve woke up newly created in the Garden of God.

#### **B. God's intentions for us now are just as good as God's intentions for Adam and Eve.**

- Although we don't live in a Garden of Eden, we still live in a beautiful world which testifies of the creative handiwork of God.
- Who knows that better than those of us who get to live near some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Karen and I often remark when we are crossing the Hathaway bridge, "I can't believe we live here!"
- Even in a fallen world scarred by sin, God wants us to have an abundant life and makes that abundant life available.

**Jeremiah 29:11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Brothers, sisters, friends, may I just speak plainly and tell you what I think keeps most people from being good managers for God?

- What keeps them from managing their treasures in the way God wants?
  - Keeps them from managing their time the way God wants?
  - Keeps them from being the good stewards of the years of their life like God wants them to be?
- They are afraid God wants to take away from them.
  - They are afraid God does not want them to enjoy some of the treasures they have accumulated.
  - They think God is out to take away their time.
  - Take away their energy and strength.
  - They think God wants to take their stuff.

What I am hoping we can see here in Genesis is that God does not need our stuff and has no desire to take away our stuff. Quite the contrary!

- Every dollar that has ever passed through my hands was sent there by God.
- Every hour I have ever enjoyed over the course of the years of my life, was time given me by the Lord.
- Every ounce of energy and stamina that has ever been mine, was mine only because God allowed it.
- Far, far from God always wanting to take from me, God has been far more concerned to give to me.
- And what few times God has taken away, and there have been some of those times, it has always been for my good.

The first perk of being God's manager? Good benefits!

Second benefit:

## II. OUR BEING GOD'S MANAGER IS A PARTNERSHIP.

- God is certainly the owner, the boss.
- But we are not slaves.
- We are not hirelings or merely employees.
- We are in partnership with the Creator of the Universe.
  - It is not a 50/50 partnership.
  - He is owner; we are managers.
  - He is determines the plan; we work the plan.

Nevertheless

- We share in the profits.
- ✓ **Souls born into the kingdom of God because of our stewardship** of the gospel, or of our labor, or our time, or our money – brings joy unspeakable to us as it does to God.
- ✓ **Faith exercised in our hearts** to be faithful managers when our needs are great, **brings great satisfaction** in our soul just as it brings satisfaction in the heart of the Lord Himself.
- ✓ **Knowing we are a part of ministries that brings comfort to hurting people**, direction to those who have lost their way, help to those who are in need **brings a happiness** inside the chest that cannot be duplicated any other way.

Katrina – When Karen and I were leading our church in Slidell as a disaster relief center on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, because our own home had flooded and was uninhabitable at that point, Karen and I had set up a bedroom in my brother's office in Baton Rouge.

- We left BR each morning at 5 to be at the church for a 7 a.m. team leader meeting.
- We usually left Slidell at night around 8, stopped for dinner on the outskirts of BR,

- Got back to our bedroom around 11 at night.
- Then I needed to answer emails of church teams that wanted to come join in the disaster relief ministry for the next hour or two.
- Next morning, up at 4, depart by 5

We did that for 6 weeks, 7 days a week, until Ronnie Floyd's church arranged to put a camping trailer on our driveway, so we would not have to make the 4 hr drive each day.

But I say that not to gain pity.

We were exhilarated. Yes, we were tired, but we felt more strength and energy during those days of partnering with God, just being His managers, of the things He provided to demonstrate His great love for all the hurting people.

Brazil – In large measure, that is how I feel most of the time when I go on mission. Honestly, we keep long days; and we work very hard. But the Lord just seems to double our energy and endurance as we partner with Him as His managers.

We don't return home with our tongues hanging out, saying we have to recover for a year before we ever do that again. We come home fulfilled, excited, overflowing. Personally, give me a couple of days to rest, and I could do it again.

The final perk I want to mention, and it is not the last by far, but the final I will mention today is.

### **III. GOD SENDS EVEN MORE BLESSING TO FAITHFUL PARTNER/MANAGERS.**

#### **A. When we tithe**

- **God promises to pour out a great blessing.**
- **God promises to rebuke the devourer.**

Folks, if you could just believe God's Word enough to understand **God's motive for commanding you to tithe.**

- **God wants you to acknowledge His ownership.**
- **God wants to provide for His Work through the tithes of His people.**

God does not want to make you have less by demanding the tithe. In fact, He is promising to give you more if you obey in giving the tithe.

And this is not only true with the tithe. This is true with all our giving.

#### **B. Whenever we give, we have the promise of Luke 6:38.**

**Luke 6:38** Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

**Note several things of importance.**

- **These are the words of Jesus Himself.**
- **If you give,**
  - **It will be given to you**
  - **In good measure**
  - **Pressed down**
  - **Shaken together**
  - **Running over**

Note something else. Although when you give, it always is given back to you in good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over

**What is given to us also comes back in the same size vessel we used to give.**

- You used a big cup to give
- God uses a big cup to give back, but the contents pressed down, shaken together, and running over.
- But if you use a small cup to give,
- When God gives back, it is pressed down, shaken together, and running over, but ...
- It comes in a small cup.

**For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”**

Finally, remember this:

The size of the cup with which we give is relative to how much has already been entrusted to our care.

Frankly, what would be a big cup size gift from a guy flippin` burgers at McDonalds part time, would just be a small cup gift from me.

What would constitute a large cup gift from me, would be a small cup gift for some of you.

The widow who gave her two mites, the smallest coin of legal tender, gave a big cup gift. It was all she had.

**CONCLUSION:** Someone may object to say, “But Bro. Mike, that is the prosperity gospel.”

No, it isn't. The prosperity gospel says that God wants us all to be rich and healthy. The only thing holding us back from being rich and healthy is our lack of faith, expressed in lack of giving. So the prosperity gospel says, “If you give enough, God will make you rich and healthy.”

That is not true. Neither in O.T. or New. God did not promise to make you rich or to always give you good health, if you just gave enough to Him. God does not want to make us all rich, because it would ruin a lot of us. He does not want to keep us perpetually healthy on this earth, because He does not want us to live forever in these sin stained bodies or forever abide on a perverse, sin dominated planet.

Folks, **God** is not saying that if you are a good manager, you will be rich and never get sick.

He **is saying**

- **It will be the most rewarding partnership you can possibly imagine or will ever experience.**
- **And God will abundantly bless you in the doing of it.**