

Growing Deeper
The Cost of 6ft

Week Five: *Comfort at the Cost of Caretaking*
Matthew 21:28-46

1. What was the last thing you committed to help with? Did you follow through? Why or why not?
2. Read Matthew 21:28-32, why do you think the first son changed his mind?
3. Have you ever been in the same position? If so, describe the circumstances.
4. When you look back on that time, are you glad that you changed your mind? Why or why not?
5. How do you think you would have felt had you not changed your mind?
6. As you end your FIFTEEN in prayer. Ask God to give you the wisdom to know when you should take action and the humility to admit when you are on the wrong path.

Spend FIFTEEN—Day Two

7. Look again at Matthew 21:28-32. Do you think the second son intended to go out in the field and work and later changed his mind or deliberately lied, knowing he had no intention of going out to work?
8. Do you think the first son regretted going out to work once he changed his mind?
9. Do you think the second son regretted going back on his word?
10. Just as we did yesterday, think about a time when you committed to help out in some way but failed to do so. What were the circumstances?
11. Looking back to your examples from yesterday and today, in which circumstance did you feel worse about now?
12. Re-read verses 31 and 32, which matters more to God, the words that were spoken, or the intentions of the heart?

13. Finish your FIFTEEN in prayer. Begin your prayer with a time of confession about the times you have failed to fulfill your commitments. Then ask God to remind you of the grace he offers you, even when you have failed.

Spend FIFTEEN–Day Three

14. Read Genesis 1:27-31 which talks about one of our very first responsibilities given to us by God. What responsibility did God give to man?
15. Now read Gen 9:1-11. After the flood, God reestablished his covenant with man. What had changed?
16. As a rule, do you feel it is your responsibility to steward the physical world around you?
17. How would you say you are living up to the responsibility given to you by God?
18. As we saw when God reestablished his covenant, an account for our own physical being must be given. How well do you think you are taking care of your physical body? Which is easier, caring you're the physical world around you or your own body? Explain your answer.
19. What kinds of things typically get in your way when you fail to follow through on your commitment to steward any part of the physical world? Brainstorm a list.
20. Now brainstorm a list of ways you can better steward your physical world.
21. As you end in prayer, ask God to help you take seriously your responsibility to steward the physical blessings he has given you.

Spend FIFTEEN–Day Four

22. Earlier this week, we look at a parable of the two brothers. (Skim Matthew 21:28-32 if you need to refresh your memory.) Now we will read Matthew 21:33-46 to see what Jesus says next. What did the master of the house give to the tenants?
23. How did the tenants abuse the responsibility given to them by the master of the house?
24. List all who were sent to deal with the tenants and whom they represent. Use your Bible's footnotes if you need a hint.

25. In this parable, who are the tenants?
26. In this parable, the master of the house (God) gave tenants (us), a vineyard to steward. How does this relate to what God has given us to steward?
27. It would be easy for us to focus only on the spiritual responsibility God has given us, but in the case of this parable, the expectation that the tenants would steward the vineyard well is understood. Do we have the same expectation of our physical world? Why or why not?
28. Often as Christians, we often believe that the spiritual well-being of ourselves and the physical world is less noble or important than our spiritual well-being. How might that attitude harm our physical selves and the world?
29. As you end your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to help you see ways in which you can better steward your physical body as well as the world around you.

Spend FIFTEEN–Day Five

30. Yesterday we looked at Matthew 21:33-46. Reread it to refresh your memory. As we saw yesterday in this parable, God gave us the responsibility to steward our physical world, but the parable points us to the other gift God has given us – his Son. How did the tenant's desire for the fruit of the physical world keep them from receiving the blessings from the son?
31. How might the neglect of our physical selves and the world harm our spiritual life?
32. How might the opposite also be true, too much focus on the physical world?
33. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6-8. What other responsibility has he given us?
34. God has given us the physical world to steward, but he has also given us a treasure that surpasses all. How can we steward this treasure well? Brainstorm a list.
35. When you look over the list, what sticks out at you that you could implement immediately.
36. Now look over the list you brainstormed on day three. What sticks out at you on this list that you could implement immediately?

37. End your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God to help you make a plan to accomplish both of these things.