

Steward-Ship, Part 1

We should totally receive and respond to Yowceph Ebed Melech as our ship's steward. Châmites have certain natural characteristics. They can tell Shem the right things to do when under proper authority. They can be very practical and should be supported. They have command when placed in positions of oversight and authority to help in the realm of service. Yowceph, for example, says, "Bring your dishes here when I am here." We cannot be offended that he carries command within his sphere of stewardship, but instead support him. He has eyes to see, and we need to surround him with our allegiance and co-operation.

Yowceph has to know what is going on at all times onboard the ship. That is his charge. If there is a meeting at a certain time, but it gets changed for some particular reason, then he must be properly informed, for he carries responsibility in the preparations for such meetings. We need to promote Yowceph. He brings law and order on board. We can never resent him for doing his job. That is why he is a steward aboard this ship, to help everyone with order and care. The ship is never to be idle, but teaming with energy, life, and projects for its development, getting everything "shipshape" — ready to set sail.

Abraham's servants (slaves) were so loyal to him, from the heart. They defended and governed over all their Master's possessions. In the same way, we are to be stewards of the grace of God. We do not misrepresent our Father's grace to people. Some have found it difficult to receive what I am saying about this. They tended to take identity with the ship as though it were their own, causing Yowceph to lack confidence to discharge his responsibilities because of that resistance. But I have established Yowceph here as the ship's steward, to oversee all the managerial responsibilities and cleanliness of the ship. He has grace to do this. He must be respected and supported, as he keeps the ship clean and orderly.

Yishai has much grace in his overall understanding of what the ship needs. He is humble, knowledgeable, and his gifts are a complement to the ship. Even though he knows so much, he is not a “know-it-all.” He makes you feel welcome to express your opinions and point of view. He listens to others. He does not have that overweening self-confidence that makes others feel intimidated and afraid to offer what they have to enhance the ship. Anyone who serves on the ship must maintain an attitude of stewardship rather than ownership, otherwise it will surely stifle everything and everyone from actually moving forward with the projects that are needed.

Dominion versus Domination

In Gen 1:26 it mentions that man would have *dominion* over all created things, but that dominion does not mean *domination*. God’s intention in creation was that human beings would be caretakers or managers to govern and rule over all creation. Man was created as a *steward* over all the works of His hands. This was His purpose and plan for humanity, made in His very likeness and image. They were to be His personal stewards, co-workers with the same intent and purpose.

In each way that we hold expertise, we are to be managers over what belongs to our Father. We are not the owners of anything. He is the owner, but we are the managers or stewards over all that belongs to Him. He gives us authority in specific areas to carry out service as stewards to care and manage His creation.

Our Father is limited in His ability to use people who have these certain tendencies to possess rather than steward. There cannot be such grasping of identity with this ship. The ship is not here for self-centered purposes.

As man continued to cultivate the cursed ground, becoming more and more self-centered, they also started to see creation as something they owned, rather than seeing themselves as stewards over creation to care and protect. Selfish pursuits and aggrandizement is not our Father’s purpose. No one should be telling others what to do

where they do not have grace to command. We are not going to have a “captain” on this ship, but rather, we are going to submit to the greater grace wherever and in whomever that exists.

This is our foundation: “All things were *common property* to them, and no one considered anything as *his own*” (Acts 4:32-35). So, you can see what a serious sin Ananias and Sapphira committed. They sold the land and were meant to share it as common property, since they had money from the sale of the land. They should have laid this at the apostles’ feet as faithful and loyal stewards. But instead they secretly held on to some for themselves. We, on the other hand, have to offer it all for His sake, so His purpose can be done. We have to be good stewards who are faithful, supplying the needs wherever there are needs, not to get in good with someone (Acts 5:4).

Barnabas gave away his land *voluntarily*, as he could see how it was befitting to further our Father’s purpose. This is a normal response for any who make a claim to salvation (Acts 4:35). The apostles were *stewards* of the grace of God, having been given oversight and responsibility to care for the flock and the proper distribution of money or profits accordingly. That is why, once properties or lands were sold, the profits from those sales would be given into their care, as those responsible to dispense according to the greatest need overall.

Two Copper Coins

Our Master saw the widow who put two small, *seemingly insignificant* copper coins into the temple treasury. He then taught His disciples a most essential lesson, saying, “She, out of her poverty, put in her whole livelihood” (meaning she had nothing left for herself). That was what He wanted His disciples to learn from all those who came that day to make their offering (Lk 21:2-3). Nothing surpassed what this poor widow had contributed, for she *gave up all she had to live on*. What faith!

Our Master knew this would be the foundation for the new Israel to come. If all “who believed” gave in the same way, then there would be “no needy among them” (Acts 2:44; 4:32,34). Our economy is based on that “heart response” to give all that we have – *all that sustains us*. And that is also why the example of Ananias and Sapphira stands out in such graphic contrast. They were those who wanted the *appearance* of giving all, but not the reality. Their “heart response,” left unchecked, would have eventually destroyed what God was establishing among “all who believe... and were being added to daily.” A little leaven leavens the whole lump. So it is with secret and selfish desire.

I want all those like this to be healed of these ways. We have seen in other places the tendency to divide and accuse those who have the ministry of true stewardship. We have to listen to the heart and not overlook anyone, but look to grace – not position.

If we have the love of God poured out within our hearts, then we will *do* this (Phil 2:2-5). Love compels us to share what we have in common with one another. Once we are saved, then we become stewards over those possessions. And what would a faithful and good steward do? Those who previously owned something, relinquished their possessions voluntarily to those who had greater grace and oversight to properly utilize them for His purpose’ sake (Lk 14:33). You are called to be stewards of what our Father gives you, not what you have to give up.

The first disciples did not regard any of their lands or possessions as though they were their own (Acts 4:32), but gave up all, out of love for Him and their brothers who were in need. The DC play *Stepping Stones* talked about the “Dangers of Self-Love” (Acts 5). Even though Ananias and Sapphira gave up *some*, they did it to be recognized while they held on to the rest in case it didn’t all work out. They were eventually exposed, and our Father who saw it, brought them into judgment, causing others to fear.

Our Father is the One who owns this boat. We are His stewards, serving Him with the grace we each have, making our contributions. Yishai and others will be stewards of the ship, serving with a whole heart. Yowceph will keep the place orderly, clean and

tidy. Yowceph will also be tidy in his appearance at all times, representing our Master properly as a faithful steward in His house. He has been given a uniform, hat, vest, and other clothing and materials, so he will be recognized in a respectful manner. He needs to have a bit more of an official appearance to all those who come onboard. When we go places with this ship in the future, it will be clear that he is responsible for the boat as one of the ship's main stewards.

Natural and Spiritual Minds

Even if someone can “see things,” he must not allow himself to enter into critical judgment of his brothers. You have to judge your own motives. The intellect is the *head of the flesh*. It can be analytical and logical. There is the natural mind and the spiritual mind. Someone may have a lot of judgment towards others, but not much self-judgment. He may be out of touch with himself, with what is really at work within him. Even people with conscience in the nations are different towards others. Those who uphold conscience do not tend to judge prematurely, but reserve their good judgment until the proper time. The conscience is the self-reflecting judicial power within a person to respond appropriately.

The ship will be a community. They will gather every morning and evening to praise, sing, dance, and hear from our Father together. The whole crew here needs to do this all together. Everyone has a part (participation) in the ship, something to offer and bring the ship along to completion. Crew heads should always make their crew feel good about themselves, listening to their opinions. The one who navigates the ship is only doing his job, not because he is the captain. Military protocol or rank does not really apply to our life. One person does not know it all. Therefore, a humble person would never act like a “know-it-all.”

The foundation here in Brunswick has been so poor. Now it seems we have to have a new start in this area. “Do unto others as you would want them to do unto you.”

We are all stewards of the manifold wisdom of God, like Keli, who is a steward over his men in California at this time. Obey your leaders, for they have “watch” over your souls (Heb 13:17). It is so good that we can learn to work hard and diligently. Years later, you see the good fruit of all your efforts.

The centurion in the “gospels” was not an arrogant man, but humble; he recognized authority. You can tell when true authority is upon someone.

The *Peacemaker* crew must be orderly, kind, mannerly, and respectful. It would be expedient and proper to add young men to the ship. Their energy and zeal would be vital to get everything going. Faith on board this ship would put wind in our sails. The sound of singing should fill every quadrant of this ship. Wherever you are, in the kitchen, down below, etc., not just strumming the guitar, but also actually playing as an expression of worship. We need to have morning gatherings onboard this ship. Savav needs to get together a schedule for the women. We need to live a disciplined life on board, not losing our momentum – being directed under a kind and loyal commander.

We could send people here to work on the ship for a one-year period and then rotate the apprentices. We need about 12-24 people sent here to help work on the ship. You need to gather your people together and give them all vision – for events, for evangelism, possibly to go up and down the coasts with goods, meeting people at *Tall Ships* events, etc.

We all must labor to build a good foundation here on the boat. Have meetings every week with the leaders; get everyone’s opinions and suggestions. Have a complaint morning so we can all have objectivity. Have a suggestion box for the stewards about things we see needing to be done onboard the ship or in the community. Remember, you NEVER abandon ship. Always have minchot, teachings, and someone responsible on board at all times.