

THE CHARACTER OF A STEWARD

Mario Denton and Handré de Jongh



Mario is an industrial psychologist, international teacher and acts as visiting professor. He also has two counselling diplomas and two master's degrees, (M Econ and MBA) and completed his PhD as well as DBA in Organisational Behaviour and Business Administration. He has presented People Management practices 44 times consecutively to MBA students and trained about 2000 participants of which 300 MBA students in Emotional Intelligence. He is currently the Director of the Crown Marketplace Institute as well as the Director for FCCI (The Fellowship for Companies for Christ International)



Handré holds a BA in Theology as well as a Hons in Psychology. He served as a Pastor for 14 years and held the position of School Principal for 5 years prior to joining Crown in 2005 in a full time capacity. He currently serves as the National Director of Crown SA.

“I fall, I stand still ... I trudge on, I gain a little ... I get more eager and climb higher and begin to see the widening horizon. Every struggle is a victory.”

- Helen Keller

How to work through these radio talks

Purpose of these radio talks

Please note: This is only radio talks for self study and not to be released in any other format due to copy right restrictions.

Sources and Full acknowledgement:

Primary sources

The Power for true success: How to build character in your life

Secondary

Crown Stewardship material

The money devotional from Mark LLoydbottom

CBMC weekly notes and specifically the reflection notes

Biblical Principles for releasing Financial Provision by Frank Damazio and Rich Brott

The Treasure Principle by Randy Alcorn

5. BOLDNESS vs Fearfulness

Definition: Confidence that what I have to say or do is true, right, and just

Memory Verse: “Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13)

Old Testament: The fiery furnace (Daniel 3)

New Testament: Peter and John witness for Christ (Acts 4:1-31)

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Moed vs. angstigheid	Vertroue dat wat ek moet sê of doen waar, reg en regverdig is.	Durf, vreesagtig

Definition

Boldness is the fearless and daring courage to carry out the work God calls us to do. When God commanded Joshua to “be of good courage,” he was being told to have boldness—boldness to face death in battle, to speak truth to his own heart and to the nation, and to do great exploits for God.

Daniel came to Babylon as a captive and served four kings. Before he came, he purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself or violate the Law of the Lord. He stood firm, even in a den of lions, causing King Darius to decree “that in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God” (Daniel 6:26-27). *Ek gee hiermee opdrag dat in my hele koninkryk die God van Daniel gevrees en geeer moet word*

Boldness to Speak the Truth

Boldness to speak the truth must begin with a clear conscience toward the Lord and toward others. Nothing stops the freedom of the mouth like the unresolved failures of a life. Before Isaiah was commissioned to speak, he was cleansed of his iniquity. (See Isaiah 6:7–9.)

How bold are you?

- Have you dedicated your life to fulfill God's calling, and are you determined to make whatever sacrifices God requires?
- What Biblical convictions do you have that you are willing to die for?
- In what specific ways are you dying to self so others can know Christ?

Personal Evaluation

How bold are you in speaking the truth?

- Have you asked others to pray that you will have boldness to witness?
- Do you wait for opportunities to witness, or do you make them?
- When people ridicule the Lord, do you defend the truth in a loving way?
- What good treasures are you putting in your heart that will then be spoken by your tongue?
- Have you written out your testimony so that you will always be prepared to give a ready answer?

Boldness to Accomplish Great Things

How bold are you to do exploits for God?

- Is your heart right before the Lord so He can work mightily through you?
- Is it your goal in life to lead as many people as you can to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and then to disciple them in all the teachings of Christ?
- What special passages of Scripture (*rhemas*) has God given to you, and do you regularly meditate on them? (See Psalm 1.)
- Has God given you special concern for a certain category of people so that you can meet their needs?
- When you get to the end of your life, what do you want to look back on, of which you can say, "This is what God accomplished through me"?

Stewardship wisdom	
29	There is always the planting of the seed before the reaping of a harvest
30	Certainly our investments should include investing in God's work
32	Obedience triggers the blessing of God
32	A steward is a guardian of the interests of other
33	There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, mind and the purse. Martin Luther
34	Money talks... but all mine says is goodbye
35	The challenge for most people is that their earning capacity does not match their yearning capacity

Dear Lord

Forgive me for my selfish actions and choices. Forgive me for trying to force Your hand and wanting my own way. Help me to take my focus off the things I covet and back on You, the Giver and Creator of all things. I choose to trust that what You have planned for me is much better. I choose to be patient and wait for Your timing. Amen.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. How much do you involve God in your decision-making – if at all? Explain your answer.
2. Do you think you have ever reached a point – even temporarily – where you trusted God 100 percent in directing different areas of your life, especially your finances? Do you think such total commitment is even possible? Why or why not?

3. **If you were to face a major decision today – in your career, your family, your lifestyle or your finances – how willing would you be to submit to God’s will once it became clear, even if it was contrary to your own desires?**

4. Have you ever gone through a time when you felt certain that you knew what was best, you were extremely disappointed when the situation turned out very differently from what you had hoped and desired, but in retrospect were happy that your own will was not carried out? If so, describe it. What did you learn from that situation?

6. CAUTIOUSNESS vs Rashness

Definition: Knowing how important right timing is in accomplishing right actions

Memory Verse: “A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.” (Proverbs 22:3)

Old Testament: Joshua deceived by the Gibeonites (Joshua 9:1-27)

New Testament: Peter and Cornelius (Acts 10:1-11:18)

Cautiousness vs. Rashness

Cautiousness is planning for the success of a venture by following the ways of God rather than our natural inclinations.

Afrikaans	Definisie	Alternatiewe
Versigtigheid vs. voortvarendheid	Die wete hoe belangrik tydberekening by die uitvoering van die regte aksies is	Onbesonne, Omsigtig vs. oorhaastig

What Is Cautiousness?

Cautiousness is recognizing that we have natural inclinations that are opposite to God's ways. These tendencies seem right but lead to destruction and death. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25). *Daar is 'n lewenswyse wat vir mens reg kan lyk maar die uiteinde daarvan is die dood.* "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways" (Isaiah 55:8–9). If we act according to our natural tendencies, we will act foolishly and pay a heavy price. "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool" (Proverbs 28:26). *Wie op himself vertrou, is 'n dwaas; wie hom deur wysheid laat lei, is veilig* "Lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5–6). *Vetrou volkome op die Here en moenie op jou eie insigte staat maak nie. Ken hom in alles wat jy doen en Hy sal jou die regte pad laat loop*

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."—Isaiah 40:31 *Maar die wat op die Here vertrou, kry nuwe krag. Hulle vlieg met arendsvlerke, hulle hardloop en word noe moeg nie, hulle loop en raak nie afgemat nie*

How Do We Develop Cautiousness?

1. Acknowledge that our natural inclinations are often wrong, and cry out to God for His wisdom.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things" (Jeremiah 33:3). *Roep my aan, Ek sal jou antwoord en jou vertel van groot en onverstaanbare dinge waarvan jy nie weet nie*

"Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me" (Psalm 50:15). *Roep my aan in die dag van benoudheid: Ek sal jou uithelp en jy sal My eer* "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). "(Proverbs 2:3–5). "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). *As een van julle wysheid kortkom, moet hy dit van God bid en Hy sal dit aan hom gee, want God gee aan almal sonder voorbehoud en sonder verwyf*

2. Learn from the experiences of others.

The biographies that God wrote in the Bible are filled with both rich counsel on how to do things God's way and accounts of what happens when God's ways are rejected.

3. Consider the opposite action of natural inclinations.

Since our natural inclinations are often opposite God's universal principles, it may be helpful to ask, "What would I naturally do?" and then see if the opposite action is confirmed by Scripture.

4. Seek wise counsel.

A caution sign on the highway may mean that others have not exercised sufficient cautiousness in that spot and have paid a costly price for it. A cautious driver will slow down, make sure he is following all the rules of the road, and be extra alert to danger. There are similar "caution signs" on the highway of life. Others have failed to heed them and have painful memories to share. They will usually be willing to tell their stories to others who want to avoid the consequences they experienced. We would be wise to listen to their mistakes. Get experience as inexpensively as you can—others have paid a high price for it.

Personal Evaluation

How cautious are you?

- Do you seek God's will for every situation?
- Do you ask for counsel from wise and experienced people?
- Do you learn from the mistakes of others?
- Do you think about what you are going to say before you speak?
- Do you consider the right timing for doing a good deed?
- Do you realize how your actions will affect others?
- Do you plan ahead and count the cost, especially for big endeavors?

Stewardship wisdom	
36	Your bank and credit card are theological. They tell you who and what your worship
37	Where God guides He provides. What God orders, He pays for. God's work done in Gods ways, never lacks supply
38	Some people want to make as much as they can, put the lid in the can and then sit on the can
39	Spend less than you earn and do it for a long time and you will be financially successful Ron blue from Kingdom advisors
40	Never spend your money before you have it. Thomas Jefferson
41	Plan ahead- it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark
42	There is no advantage in being the richest man in the cemetery

Dear Lord

Forgive me for missing previous opportunities to respond to Your call. Help me to hear and recognise Your call when it comes, and give me the courage to respond with whole-hearted commitment. I choose not to doubt my abilities or whether I can make a success of it – I choose instead to trust You, my Mentor, Father and Teacher. You know the plans You have for me, to give me a future and a hope. Amen.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What has been your reaction to hasty efforts by governmental or political leaders to address the economic crisis? Have you felt their proposals had been sufficiently thought-out?

2. Think of a time when you made an overly quick decision, whether it was personal or work-related? What was the outcome? If you had taken more time before deciding, would you have reached the same conclusion? Explain your answer.

3. What steps do you think would be helpful for avoiding hasty, impulsive decisions that might be regretted later?

4. Do you agree with the Bible passages that state that hasty decisions lead to poverty, and that the path to success and victory should include seeking out proper advice and guidance? Why or why not?