

# 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

# 7. COMPASSION vs Indifference

**Definition:** Investing whatever is necessary to heal the hurts of others

Matthew 25:35, 40 – For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. And the King will tell them, ‘I assure you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’ *Want ek was honger en julle het my iets ge gee om tee eet; Ek was dors en julle het my iets gegee om te drink en ek was vreemdeling en julle het my gehusives en vers 40 En die Koning sal hul antwoord: dit verseker ek julle Vir sover julle dit aan een van die geringsgtes van die broers van My gedoen het, het julle dit aan My gedoent*

| Afrikaans              | Definisie  | Alternatiewe                                  |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Medelye vs. ongevoelig | Om te doen wat nodig is om ander se pyn te verlig. | Barmhartig, Deernis afsydig, onbelangstellend |

## Definition

It means “pity or sympathy”. To be “moved with compassion” describes Jesus’ response to the deep needs He saw. It also means “to love deeply, to have mercy, to have tender affection.” It is used to describe the tender love that a father and mother have for their children and the mercy that God shows to His people. Other concepts that describe compassion are “to have pity, to spare from destruction, and to show mercy.”

**Sympathy—feeling sorry for people who are hurting**

**Empathy—feeling the pain with hurting people**

**Compassion—doing something about the pain**

## Compassion Is Stirred by an Urgent Need for Help

- **Pharaoh’s daughter had compassion on baby Moses**—“When she had opened it [the basket], she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him” (Exodus 2:6). Met die oopmaak sie sy dit is ‘n seuntjie en hy huil: Toe kry sy hom jammer
- **Jesus had compassion on a grieving widow**—When Jesus saw a widow whose only son was being carried to his burial, “he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not” (Luke

7:13), and He raised her son from the dead. *Toe die Here haar sien, he hy haar innig jammer gekry en vir haar gese: moenie huil nie Die opwekking van die weduwee se seun by Nain*

• **The Good Samaritan had compassion on a wounded traveler**—“A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. . . . A certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him” (Luke 10:30, 33). *Maar 'n Samiritaan wat op reis was, het op hom afgekom en toe hy hom sien, het hy hom innig jammer gekry*

### **Compassion Results From Discerning a Deep Need**

Three men saw a wounded traveler by the side of the road. The first one may have felt sympathy as he passed by. The second indicated empathy as he came over and looked at him, but the third had compassion as he stopped and helped him. He was the Good Samaritan. (See Luke 10:30–37.)

**Jesus saw the physical needs of the multitude and gave healing and food**—“Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. . . . He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes. . . . And they did all eat, and were filled” (Matthew 14:14, 19–20).

*Toe Hy uit die skuit klim, het hy die groot menigte mense daar gesien.. Hy het hulle innig jammer gekry*

### **Compassion Is Activated by Humble Pleas for Help**

• **The hopelessly indebted servant begged for patience**—“The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt” (Matthew 18:26–27).

• **The Prodigal Son repented and pled for mercy**—“He arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him” (Luke 15:20). *Toe hy nog ver aankom, het sy pa hom al geien en hom innig jammer gekry*

## **Compassion Is a Normal Response to an Urgent Need**

- **A cry for help indicates humility and dependence**—Most people are reluctant to acknowledge a personal need or ask for help. Thus, a cry for help is humbling and acknowledges a personal inability and inadequacy to meet an urgent need. “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6).

## **Compassion Presupposes an Ability to Meet Needs**

- We are to draw from our God given resources to meet the needs of others. “God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (II Corinthians 12:10, 13). “Give, and it shall be given unto you” (Luke 6:38). *Gee en vir julle sal gegee word*

Commands to be Compassionate

The character quality of compassion is not a suggestion for those who would follow Christ, but rather a command.

- **Have compassion one of another**—“

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing” (I Peter 3:8–9).

## **How to Develop a compassionate heart?**

Christ’s greatest concern was the spiritual state of the lost.

*“He was wounded for our transgressions . . . and with his stripes we are healed.” —Isaiah 53:5“*  
*Deur sy wonde het daar vir ons genesing gekom*

### **Enlarge your heart with a prayer list.**

The larger our hearts, the more compassion we will have. David asked the Lord to enlarge his heart. (See Psalm 119:32.) Paul urged the Corinthian believers to enlarge their hearts toward each other and toward him in the same way that his heart was enlarged. One of the obvious ways that Paul may have enlarged his heart for compassion was to have a detailed and extensive prayer list. (See Philippians 1:4.) He carried the daily responsibility of all the churches and prayed for many of the believers by name. (See II Corinthians 11:28.)

## **Look for ways to do good to all people.**

Compassion is a practical expression of genuine love, and all believers are commanded to have love toward each other and toward others. Not only is love the credential of being a disciple, but it is also the means by which we fulfill the instruction of Galatians 6:10: “As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” *So lank ons die gelentheid het, moet ons dus aan alaml goed doien, veral aan ons medegelowiges*

## **How compassionate are you?**

- Are you “moved to compassion” when you see a group of people in need of Christ?
- Do you pray that God will send forth laborers into His harvest?
- When a neighbour has a need, do you say, “Let me know if I can help,” hoping he will not call on you? Or do you find a way to show compassion?
- When you see a disabled person, do you provide practical help?
- Do you have funds or skills that are available to help those who have a need?
- Who was the last person who asked you for help, and how did you help him?

## **A story of compassion**

Mariela was eight when she understood that only a very expensive operation could save her little brother’s life. She went to her room, grabbed the jar that held her savings and carried it to the pharmacy.

The pharmacist asked: What do you want?

She answered: “I want to tell you about my little brother. He is very sick and I want to buy a miracle. I heard my mother say that only a miracle could save him. How much does it cost?”

The pharmacist said: “We don’t sell miracles here. I’m sorry but I can’t help you.”

The pharmacist’s brother was visiting and overheard the conversation. He asked the girl, “What kind of miracle does your little brother need?”

“I don’t know,” she replied. “All I know is that he is very sick and my mother said he needed some important surgery on his head.”

“How much money do you have there?” the man asked.

The girl knew exactly how much she had saved — indeed a very insignificant amount of money. “Is it enough?” she asked.

The man smiled. “Isn’t that a coincidence! That is exactly what a miracle for a younger brother costs. Take me to your little brother so I can see what kind of miracle he needs.”

The man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, Specialist in Neurosurgery. The operation was performed without charge, and Mariela’s little brother soon returned home in good health.

Her mother kept saying: “This operation was a real miracle. I wonder how much it cost.” Mariela smiled happily. She knew how much it cost — all her savings — plus the big faith of a little girl.

No matter how much or how little God entrusts to our care, the important thing is how we use it. Little is much when God is in it. If we recognise His ownership and attempt to please Him in our financial decisions, we will certainly “prove faithful” and hear the words, “Come and share your master’s happiness.”

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Stewardship wisdom</b> |  |
| <b>43</b>                 | <b>God has given us two hands, one to receive and one to give- Billy Graham</b>  |
| <b>44</b>                 | <b>When your outgoings exceed your income, your upkeep will lead to your downfall</b>  |
| <b>45</b>                 | <b>I sincerely believe that once Christians have been educated in God;splan for their finances, they will find a freedom they had never known before</b> |
| <b>46</b>                 | <b>Persian proverb; What I kept I lost. What I spent I had. What I gave I have</b>   |
| <b>47</b>                 | <b>Death isn’t the best opportunity to give. God rewards acts of faith done while we’re still living Randy Alcorn</b>                                    |
| <b>48</b>                 | <b>You can’t take it with you but you can send it ahead</b>  |
| <b>49</b>                 | <b>A retirement is a terrible thing to waste</b>   |

**Dear Lord**

*Please help me to show Christlike compassion to the people I come across every day, even if it is only in a small way. Let Your Holy Spirit give me the boldness to comfort someone who needs it. Amen.*

**Reflection/Discussion Questions**

When last have you shown sincere compassion to someone you do not like? Do you hope that someone would do the same for you if you were the one in need?

## 8. CONTENTMENT vs Covetousness

**Definition:** Realising that true happiness does not depend on material conditions

Philippians 4:19 – And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

| Afrikaans                     | Definisie  | Alternatiewe     |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Vergenoegdheid vs. gierigheid | Die besef dat werklike vreugde nie van stoflike dinge afhanklik is nie | Tevrede, begerig |

### Definition

Contentment comes as we realize that God is all we really need and that He will never leave us. We can be satisfied in Him, knowing that He is the Supplier of all our physical and spiritual needs. “Be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee” (Hebrews 13:5). *Hou julle lewe vry van geldgierigheid; wees tevrede met wat julle het, God self het gese*” *Ek sal jou nooit verlaat nie, jou nooit in die steek laat nie*

### Contentment Is Contrary to Human Nature and Must Be Learned

We long for a better environment, assuming that with different surroundings we will achieve contentment. Yet Adam and Eve had the perfect environment, and they were not content in it. They had perfect health, a perfect marriage, a perfect garden, and daily fellowship with God Himself, yet they soon believed the lie that God had not provided everything they needed for their present and future happiness.

### Contentment Begins by Knowing the Purpose of Life

### Contentment Requires Distinguishing Between Needs and Wants

There are few things in life that are really necessary. In fact, God identified just two: food and clothing. “And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Timothy 6:8) *As ons dan kos en klere het, moet ons daarmee tevrede wees.* If we are not content with the basics of food and clothing, we will never be content, no matter how many things we obtain. God has promised to provide for our needs; however, He has not assured us that we will get all our wants. We

have a tendency to spend our resources on wants and then worry about our needs. Jesus warned about such concern. “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:31–33).

### Contentment Is Based on a Recognition of Mutual Need

God created us to have a daily need for Him. He did not create us to survive on one meal a month but on daily food, and He taught us to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). *Gee ons vandag ons daaglikse brood.* He also pointed out that “man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). *Mens leef nie net van brood nie, maar van elke word wat uit die mond van God kom*

### Discontentment Begins by Desiring Self-Sufficiency

When either partner in a marriage becomes self-sufficient, the love relationship is damaged, because joy and grace come from giving and receiving. The temptation of Adam and Eve was not simply to taste some forbidden fruit but to be self-sufficient and no longer need God. The subtle serpent told them that if they ate the fruit, they would “be as gods” and be able to decide for themselves good and evil. (See Genesis 3:1–6.)

### Discontentment Leads to Covetousness

When a brother complained about not receiving his fair share of an inheritance, Jesus said, “Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth” (Luke 12:15). To se Y vir hulle: Pas op en wees op julle hoede vir elke vorm van gierigheid, want ‘n mens se lewe is nie afhanklik van die oorvloed van sy besittings nie

### Covetousness Produces Idolatry

If we desire what God has not given to us but what He has given to others, we are guilty of coveting. This is a violation of the tenth commandment: “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour’s” (Exodus 20:17). *Jy mag nie iemand anders se hus begeer nie ook nie ‘n slaaf of slavin, ‘n bees of donkie of enigiets anders wat aan*

hom behoort nie “My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” —Philippians 4:19 En My God sal in elke behoefte van julle ryklik voorsien volgens sy wonderbaarlike rykdom in Christus Jesus

“ If I am not satisfied with what I have, I will never be satisfied with what I want.”—Ralph Guthrie  
 “For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.” —Philippians 4:11

### Contentment Allows Us to Gain Things of Greater Value

Contentment is setting our affections on eternal treasures rather than on temporal possessions. It is experiencing the qualities of Godliness without the distraction of earthly cares. Jesus warned about the conflict between temporal things and eternal riches when He spoke of the seed falling into different types of soil: “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful” (Matthew 13:22). “Discontentment makes rich men poor while contentment makes poor men rich.”

—Benjamin Franklin

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Stewardship wisdom</b> |   |
| <b>50</b>                 | <b>Work like you don't need the money, love like you'e never been hurt and dance like no one is watching Satchel Paige</b>  |
| <b>51</b>                 | <b>Success is a journey, not a destination Ben Sweetland</b>  |
| <b>52</b>                 | <b>We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give. Sit Winston Churchill</b>   |
| <b>53</b>                 | <b>Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes of the goals- Henry Ford</b>  |
| <b>54</b>                 | <b>People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care John C Maxwell</b>   |
| <b>55</b>                 | <b>Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trail and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired and success achieved- Helen Keller</b> |
| <b>56</b>                 | <b>Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value. Albert Einstein</b>  |

*Dear Lord*

*Thank You for Your provision and for taking care of me and my family. Forgive me for the times I have grumbled and been discontent. I choose to change my attitude and I trust that You know exactly what we need and when. Your provision is sufficient and kind. Amen.*

### **Reflection/Discussion Questions**

Am I missing anything in my life right now that's important to me?

- \* How much passion do I experience each day?
- \* What gives my life meaning?
- \* What do I want to be doing in ten years?
- \* What gifts has God given me that have been perfected over time?
- \* What gifts has He given me that I am unable to use?
- \* Which of my dreams have not been fulfilled yet?
- \* What is it about my job that makes me feel trapped?
- \* What realistic changes can I make in my employment?

Do you realise that God can and wants to take care of everything you need? Are you content with God's provision?

Covetousness leads to sin, which in turn leads to death. Have you ever sulked about something you coveted that belonged to someone else?

Have you ever experienced Satan coming to undermine your contentment? Did you fall for it without speaking to your spouse or to God first?

Do you become bitter over what you do not have? Do you care more about the important things in life that money cannot buy, such as love, health, freedom and eternal salvation? God says that He knows all our needs before we ask Him – do you believe that?

### **Just to recap again: We are stewards**

A steward is a person who manages someone else's property. That is our role—managing God's property here on earth. He may entrust a lot of property to our management or very little, but under no circumstances do we have the right to claim the property as our own. Biblical stewardship is much broader than just what we give to the church. It includes all of our responsibility as God's managers of His creation — everything He has entrusted to us: time, talents, treasures, family, relationships, etc. When Job lost everything, he looked at his wife and said, "*The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised*" (Job 1:21). Why was Job satisfied with this situation? Because he understood that he was just a manager in God's plan and that God was the true owner of everything under his care, even his own children.

Many Christians want to "play" the Christian life, including its financial part, without rules. They are upset when God flags them with a "yellow card." They get mad when He doesn't bless them. But many times God's blessing doesn't come because they've been violating biblical financial principles. We can't expect God's blessings or promises to be fulfilled in our lives when we violate the rules of the game—His principles.