

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

February 2, 2025

## God's Property



I found this Shakespeare story in a book, which is good to reflect on. "Shakespeare once asked, "What's in a name?" Sometimes it's more than meets the eye. Take the word "steward," for example. Originally, it came from two old-English words "sty" and "wart" or "ward." A sty-wart or sty-ward was a person who looked after the animals on a rich man's estate. In time, it came to mean the person who managed the entire estate.

Still, later, it became a family name, sometimes spelled Stewart or Steward. One family bearing this name became the ruling family of England. Tradition has it that Mary Queen of Scots changed the spelling to Stuart because the French pronounced Stewart as if it were spelled Ste-var.

That is quite a climb for a word— from an animal pen to a monarch's throne. It reminds us that God wants us to lift our stewardship above the level of an unpleasant duty to where we enthrone it as a privilege in our lives.

A Stewart or steward does not own the estate he manages. He manages it as a trusted servant of its owner. This is the basic principle of stewardship. It begins by recognizing God's overall ownership (Psalm 50:10). God entrusts us with His estate for a time, so we must acknowledge our responsibility to care for it as stewards. Our lives are God's, also. God wants us to love Him so much that stewardship ceases to be a burden and becomes a way of showing gratitude for the privilege of working with God (Cranford, Clarence W.: Cups of Light: And Other Illustrations. Willow Grove, PA: Woodlawn Electronic Publishing, 1988).

We must see ourselves as managers of God's property. Whether it is how we take care of our bodies (1 Corinthians 3:16-17), use our spiritual gift (1 Peter 4:10), manage our homes (1 Timothy 3:4; 5:14), manage our time (Ecclesiastes 3:1-9; Ephesians 5:15-16), manage how we speak (Matthew 12:36; Colossians 4:6) or managing our money (Luke 6:38). Being godly stewards is not something we must do, it is who we are in the eyes of God. "Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy." (1 Corinthians 4:1-3; NASU)

It is for this reason when Christ was preparing His disciples for His death and resurrection, He told the story of a man who was going on a long journey, so he gave his servants talents (Matthew 25:14-30). When the master returned, he expected his stewards to give an account of his property. Even though he left his property with them, they did not own it. "The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it." (Psalm 24:1; NASU) This is why Job said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21; NASU) It is our faithful stewardship that determines our blessing (Matthew 25:21).

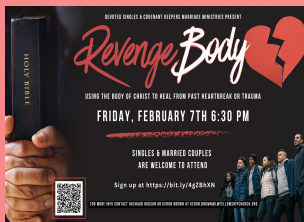
## UPCOMING Events



**WIDOWS MINISTRY PLANNING MEETING**  
Join the Widows Ministry **Saturday, February 8, 2025 from 10 am—2pm** in Classrooms 8 and 9, as we plan events and activities for the rest of the year. For more information, contact **Mary Wheatley at (713) 851-8831**



**COLLEGE MINISTRY CAMPUS VISIT TO PRAIRIE VIEW A&M—SAT. FEB. 22ND**  
Attention all high school students, join us to visit the campus of Prairie View A & M on Saturday, February 22nd. Meet at the church at 7 a.m. sharp. Register at <https://bit.ly/4aEH8Qa> For more information, contact **Keron Brown at keron.brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org**



**REVENGE BODY EVENT—FEB. 7TH 6:30 PM**  
After hurt or heartbreak, some may use the Revenge Body approach to healing. This method never works when processing grief if you don't use your support system and the Word of God. The Singles and L.E.G.I.T. Young Adult Ministries present the Revenge Body, where we will show you how to use the Body of Christ to heal. All are welcome 18+, both single and married, men and women. Invite your friends and others outside of the church. Register at <https://bit.ly/4gZBhXN> For more information, please contact **Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson**.



**EVANGELISM TRAINING—SAT., FEB. 8TH 8AM**  
Join us as we become equipped to share the gospel of Christ in an effective way. There are various ways that you can serve; telephone evangelism, contacting our sick and shut-in members, preparing snacks, childcare, and more. For more information contact **Pastor Duane Lawrence at dlawernc@lwfellowshipchurch.org**



**JOIN THE LEGACY YOUTH BAND APP**  
Legacy Youth parents and youth, join the **BAND APP** to stay connected. WE have an exciting year planned for our youth and we don't want you to miss a single event or activity. Use the link below to join:  
<https://band.us/n/a8adA2G6V4fdO>  
For more information, contact **Angela Holmes at angholmes32@gmail.com**



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

**"Proven Results"**  
*Hebrews 11:4*

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship  
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.  
**Infants—6th grade**

**LEGACY**  
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW  
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**  
**2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**  
SUNDAY  
**7:30 PM**



**Proven Results**  
**Hebrews 11:4**

**A. It's Better (v. 4):**

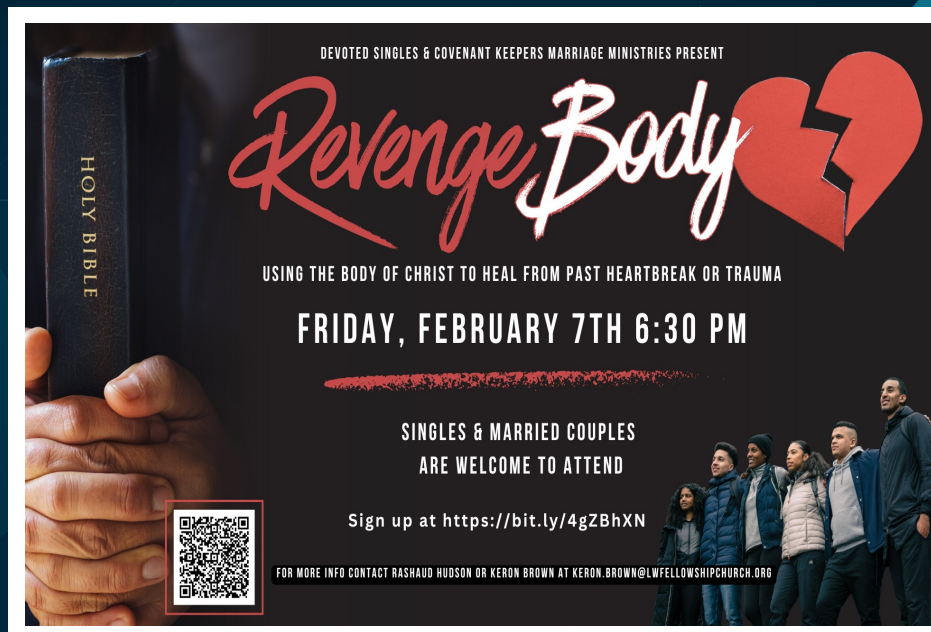
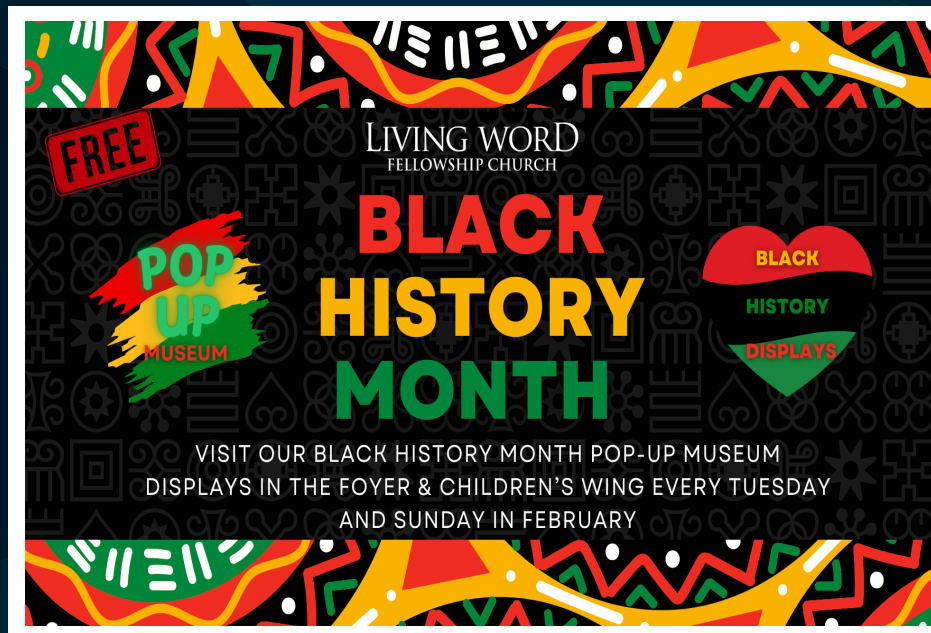
1. Whatever his parents taught Abel was executed effectively and faithfully. This was displayed because the animal was the best choice, and Abel offered the animal's fat. Offering the fat required much time and energy, exposing his dedication and commitment to please God.
2. This is a direct, purposeful personal presentation of a gift presented once and for all without expecting any return.
3. Abel presented the best he had, manifesting his respect for God as someone who is superior and necessary for his existence.
4. A better sacrifice means a more excellent sacrifice. Abel's sacrifice was more than enough, and it was beyond God's expectations. He went out of his way to impress God.
5. Because it was the first fruit and fat of the animal, it took time, and it was a deliberate gift.

**B. Prime Rewards (v. 4b)**

1. Abel's witness demonstrates that there is no possibility of a mistake being made and that what he did represents a good report. What he did was of such high regard it is now recorded permanently in heaven. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21; NASU)
2. Abel's righteousness demonstrated by His gift is a timeless example of giving that pleases God (2 Corinthians 9:10-11). God made sure Moses recorded this act of worship.
3. Abel exposed his faith level by bringing his gift to God. His gift was in accurate alignment with God's expectations. His faith justified him because his gift conformed to God's standards. He showed his faith through his works. God will never forget Abel's action.
4. God's witness is in reference to the fact that Abel's offering was directly set aside to be presented to God, and it was the choicest and the fat of the animal. This is an intentional, purposeful expression of Abel's desire to provide God his best, (the fat of the animal is an expression of giving the best of the animal – the animal was considered healthy because of the goodness of God).

**C. Overflows (v. 4c)**

1. The fact that Abel set aside his gift demonstrates that he was intensely committed to surrendering himself to please God. This mindset demonstrates Abel's steadfast commitment to obey God's Word.
2. Even though Abel is no longer physically on earth God did not forget Abel's sacrificial worship because Abel's offering was such a blessing, and God was so pleased God continues his righteous worship as an icon forever; "The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever." (Psalm 37:29; NASU)
3. Abel's sacrificial act of faith is God's message to everyone. After the Fall, Adam and Eve are not recorded as righteous. Still, their son Abel's commitment to living a life totally surrendered to pleasing God was fully highlighted by his sacrificial giving to God.



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Grieving:** Lucretia Lewis & family, Joyce Hayes & family, Jon Heard & family, Marcia Anderson & family, and the family of Vivian Phillips.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Barbara Smith, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, Rochelle Carter Brown, Terrance Ford, Robert Edwards, Beatrice Williams, Jessie Austin, Kyree Land, and Evelyn Harvey.

**PROVEN RESULTS**

**HEBREWS 11:4**

