NINEVAH

Stewardship — the faithful management of that which belongs to another; entrusted oversight, not ownership.

Accountability — the state of being answerable for one's actions, words, and stewardship to a rightful authority.

Discipleship — the lifelong, relational process of learning to follow Christ by walking closely with others, and helping them do the same.

I AM A GOOD STEWARD · WEEK 12

DISCIPLESHIP: ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

Taught by Pastor Cole Jones

PRELIMINARY QUESTIONS	Before We Study — Talk It Out

☐ What is discipleship?

☐ Is it hard to receive accountability and/or correction?

☐ Is it hard to receive correction from someone younger than you?

☐ When someone corrects you, do you hear the correction first or the tone first?

☐ Does correction feel different when you can see that the person cares about you?

> ***"Discipleship is THE Purpose of the church"***
>
> — Pastor Cole Jones

Matthew 28:19-20

> *Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.* **(ASV)**

SECTION 1	Longsuffering as the Credential

God's standing to hold anyone accountable is built on His patience. Hard truth lands when it comes from someone who has stayed.

☐ Who has earned the right to speak hard truth into your life? What did they do to earn it?

☐ Has someone ever corrected you in a way that made you shut down? What was missing?

☐ How long does it take before you let someone speak into your life?

☐ Would you rather be corrected by someone who loves you but is blunt, or by someone gentle you barely know?

Romans 2:1-11

> *Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?* ***Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*** *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God.* **(KJV)**

1 Thessalonians 2:7-12

> *But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.* **(KJV)**

SECTION 2	The Generational Street Runs Both Ways

Scripture has accountability moving young to old, old to young, and peer to peer. What happens when each direction is refused?

☐ Who is the oldest person who has ever corrected you? The youngest?

☐ Which is harder to hear: "you don't understand this generation" or "you haven't lived what I've lived"?

☐ Is there an older person in your life you've been afraid to be honest with? A younger one?

☐ What does each generation tend to assume about the other when it comes to correction?

Exodus 18:17-19, 24 (selected) — Jethro to Moses

> *And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: ... So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said.* **(KJV)**

1 Samuel 3:13, 15-18 (selected) — Samuel to Eli

> *For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. ... And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And*

> *Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision. Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I. And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee. And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.* **(KJV)**

1 Kings 12:6-8, 13-14 (selected) — Rehoboam and the elders

> *And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him. ... And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.* **(KJV)**

SECTION 3	The Counterweight: Patience Is Not Silence

Longsuffering is patience on the way to speaking, not a replacement for it.

☐ Have you ever stayed quiet about something you should have said? What held you back?

☐ Have you ever said a hard thing too soon, or too harshly, to someone you hadn't earned it with?

☐ Are you more likely to avoid the hard conversation or to have it too bluntly?

☐ Is it easier for you to be patient with someone's sin, or to confront it?

Leviticus 19:17

> *Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him.* **(KJV)**

Proverbs 27:6

> *Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.* **(KJV)**

1 Samuel 3:13 — Eli, restated

> *For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.* **(KJV)**

SECTION 4	The Bridge Forward: People as the First Stewardship

Discipleship is stewardship of people, and those who lead give an account for them.

☐ Who is pouring into you right now? Who are you pouring into?

☐ If someone studied your life to learn how to follow Christ, what would they learn?

☐ What's the difference between being discipled and being managed?

☐ Whose spiritual growth are you responsible for, whether or not you've ever said so out loud?

2 Timothy 2:2

> *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.* **(KJV)**

Hebrews 13:17

> *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.* **(KJV)**

NOTES	Write It Down