Session #4

- Review

- Discussion
  - In your meeting with your dad or mentor, what was the most interesting answer you got?
  - How did your prayer time in the Psalms go? What is God speaking to you through those times?
  - What's the one main thought that stuck out to you from the book this week?
  - Were you able to act on the command to be a steward this week in the areas of Time and Purity?
  - Were you able to appropriate the grace of God to faithfully steward those things God has entrusted to you, or did you feel like you were doing them out of obligation or duty to earn God's favor?

- Man as Steward cont'd
  - Here's a description of David (a man defined as being "after God's own heart" as a young man: 1 Samuel 16:18 "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him."
  - David is essentially defined as a faithful steward over the gifts God has given him….and look at all God did in his life as a result.
  - Money –
    - Not yours, but you're responsible for every penny.
    - Good habits die easily, bad habits die hard.
    - If I looked at what you spent your money on over the last 6 months, what would it tell me about your priorities?
    - Question: Have you ever considered the parable of the talents when you think about what to do with your money?
    - Question: Have you ever thought about tithing/offering?
  - School –
    - See school as a GREAT DEPOSIT…16+ years of MAJOR sacrifice and investment by a variety of people with specific skills and experience all with the goal of helping you prepare to be a functioning and resourceful and productive member of society….that's a huge investment!
    - Don't just see school as a "get through it" kind of endeavor. Embrace learning and being invested in for the future!
    - Question: What's the first word that comes to mind when I ask, "What's the point of school?"
    - Question: "Do you see school as an opportunity or an obligation?" Why?
  - Work
    - The primary place where most of us will interact with the world and either get to be influenced by the world or be and influencer of the world.
    - Working as unto the Lord is a profoundly prophetic ("speaking words of life into arenas of darkness") thing in the world.
    - Remember: Excellence is not steady state…stewardship is not coasting…if you're not growing, you're failing.
    - Question: What does it mean to work as unto the Lord, and where are you most tempted NOT to obey this command in your work?
  - Future –
    - Joseph: someone give me a 1-minute summary of Joseph's life

- ….look at all God did in and through Joseph in the "Big Story", and realize this: if Joseph wasn't faithful in his relationship with God as a young man, NONE of that would have come to fruition through his life.
- You don't get these years of energy and learning and preparation back, and no matter how busy you think you are, you are NOT busy yet compared to what you will be. Put your boots on and get to work now. Make the most of EVERY opportunity.
- Question: What is one way you could do a better job of stewarding your future?

- Man as Sojourner
  - Your Page 106, my page 94 – "Our life long nostalgia…."
  - CS Lewis says it another way: "If I find in myself desires nothing in this world can satisfy, I can only conclude I was made for somewhere else."
  - We were created to be in perfect, eternal, unity with God; uninterrupted by sin and weakness. The Fall disrupted, but didn't eliminate, that original purpose.
  - The people of Israel wandering all throughout the middle east on the way to the promised land is supposed to be a picture of us on the way to heaven. We, like the Israelites, live between the day of rescue, and the day of rest.
    - We're supposed to be discontent with this world and ALL that it has to offer.
    - We're supposed to be hungry for a feast that we won't taste on Earth.
    - We're supposed to feel like something's missing…because IT IS. We aren't seated in our heavenly banquet-hall celebrating the perfect unity that Christ has purchased for us. Until that's the case, we should be living FOR that day.
  - Question: What is one way that you currently ignore the fact that you aren't home yet?
  - Question: What is one way you could more intentionally live for Heaven (home), as opposed to living for the here and now?

- Wrap-Up
  - Question: Why do I, or the things that I do, matter? Answer: Because I play a part in the Story God is telling for all of eternity, and I can either join in the story and help tell it with my life, or I can choose not to align myself with God's plan, and I can be the tragic part of the story.
  - God created you, He gets to define you. And here is how he does in Scripture:
  - Man as Son, Servant, Steward, Sojourner

  - If there's one thing you think you'll walk away trying to apply from this month, what will it be?

  - How can Matt and I pray for you in the coming weeks?

  - Thanks… It took commitment, sacrifice, boldness to be here….

- Homework: I Timothy 4:7-12 "7 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; 8 for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. 9 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.10 For to this end we toil and strive,[b] because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. 11 Command and teach these things. 12 **Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."**