

# THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

## Focus

Sometimes, life can seem very contradictory. For example,

When I write a story,

which is published and applauded for its creativity,

this causes people to have certain expectations with respect to my

creative talent,

which causes me to try and repeat this success,

resulting in stereotypical story-telling,

which contradicts the idea of writing creatively;

or

When a world class ice skater performs,

the audience has certain expectations with respect to the skater's ability,

which causes the skater to worry about fulfilling these expectations,

resulting in less thought going into the actual performance,

which causes the skater to slip on the ice;

or

When I have the time to do the things that I enjoy doing,

I'm usually not working,

so I don't have the money to do them;

but when I'm working

and making enough money to do the things that I enjoy doing,

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I usually don't have the time to do them.

Sound familiar? It may be that all of these things have one particular idea in common, even though they can be expressed in many different ways:

If you focus on something up close,

you can't see, clearly, what is far away,

And if you focus on something far away,

you can't see, clearly, what is close at hand;

or

*"No one can serve two masters;*

*for either he will hate the one and love the other,*

*or he will hold to one and despise the other.*

*You cannot serve both God and mammon."* [Matt. 6:24]

Therefore, the most important thing we ever do may well be to decide

on what (or whom) we choose to focus

and/or

on the One we wish to have close at hand.

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