

Horizon Pointe Church
November 23, 2014

Thanks and Giving 2014 Part 2 of 2

Giving in Thanksgiving

Matthew 25 Jesus taught the Parable of the talents:

- Master had three servants and he gave them talents (money)
- He gave one man 5, one man 2, and one man 1
- Two of the men doubled their money
- Man with one talent buried it for fear he would lose it
- Master returned and took the one talent from the man and gave it away

Four things you shouldn't do with money:

- Don't waste it
- Don't love it
- Don't trust it
- Don't expect it to satisfy

How do I become a good manager of what God has given me?

1. It all belongs to God

You really don't own anything, it's all God's. It's on loan from Him.

Your talent, job, health, money, etc. it all comes from Him and he puts you in charge of it.

Luke 16:1 " Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions."

How would God view your handling of His affairs?

A few weeks ago I had a clogged drain, so I borrowed a snake from David. Took good care of it and returned it.

Everything you have has been given to you from God.

2. God uses money as a test

He will test us to see if we are responsible. When your children start driving it can be the most agonizing time. You don't hand them the keys the first day and say, "Head down to Cincinnati and pick up some Ribs King."

More responsible we are the more he entrusts to us.

Matthew 6:19-21 " 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 moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

If money is a test, what does it test?

- What I love
- What I trust
- If God can trust me

Direct connection between:

- Maturity & Money
- Spiritual power & Possessions
- Blessings & Bucks

When my mother and father-in-law lived in North Carolina they worked at the Biltmore Estates. They became friends with the owners, direct dissidents of the Vanderbilts. For years they have had a family policy, children, grandchildren and all others would not be hired at the Estates until they went out on their own and found a job and worked for at least a year.

3. Money is a tool to be used for God's purposes

- Look ahead

Proverbs 14:8 " The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception."

- Make a plan

Proverbs 16:9 " In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps."

- Act quickly

Luke 16:4 " I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses."

4. Use it to get people to Heaven

Luke 16:9 " I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings."

This is not about buying friends, it is about using what you have to impact others. Salvation can't be bought by you or me, it was already paid for through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Can you imagine one day you will die and walking through the gates of heaven and there be people waiting and cheering for you? All because you were faithful with what God gave you and used it for reaching others for Christ.

5. One day I will give an account

One day there's going to be an audit on my life. How I used not just my money but everything that God gave me. What did you do with what you were given:

- Your talent,
- Your relationships,
- Your opportunities,
- Your mind,
- Your creativity

What did you with what God gave you?

Luke 16:2 " So he called him in and asked him, 'What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer."