

GENEROUS

January 28, 2024
Pastor Brian Greenleaf

Luke 16:1-13, Matthew 25:14-30

Money and possessions have the power to consume and derail us more quickly than anything else.

How we manage money and possessions is always a matter of the heart (Matt 6:21).

Financial Clarity

1. Everything belongs to God
2. God will use money to reveal important aspects of our lives
 - ✓ Unmanaged finances reveal an unmanaged life
3. Money is simply a _____
 - ✓ Do not love money, use it
 - ✓ We are to _____ people and _____ money, not _____ money and _____ people

3 things the shrewd manager did that God wants us to follow:

 - A. He focused on the future
 - B. He planned
 - C. He was decisive
4. Faithfulness with a _____ opens the door to God trusting us with _____ (Matt 25:14-30)
 - ✓ Generosity is not dependent on _____
 - ✓ Generosity is where your treasure so that your heart will follow (Matt 6:21)
5. Allow God to show you the _____ of your money (resources)

What most people do:	The order God blesses:
1. Earn it	1. Earn it
2. Enjoy it	2. Tithe it
3. Repay it (past)	3. Save it
4. Save it (future)	4. Repay it
5. Give it (eternal)	5. Enjoy it

GENEROUS

Sermon Talks

1. What caught your attention in this week's message? Was there something you had never heard before or something you had a question about?
2. How does understanding that everything is on loan change your perspective of your possessions?
3. If you believe in the Biblical truth that everything belongs to God and that He has entrusted you with His possessions, then believe that He will not leave you alone to figure things out on your own.
 - What financial decisions do you need God to help with?
 - Are you willing to let Him direct you?
4. Are there unmanaged finances in your life? How have you been dealing with that?
5. How did the shrewd manager focus on the future? How did he plan? How was he decisive?
 - How are you planning for the future?
 - In what areas of your finances do you need to be decisive?
6. Are you loving people and using money or loving money and using people? What are some practical ways you can use money to love people?
7. Read Luke 16:10-12 and Matthew 25:14-30. These texts suggest that those who are faithful with a little will be entrusted with more, but those who are unfaithful stewards will lose what they have. How have you seen these principles play out in your life or the lives of those around you?
8. Take a look at the chart again, contrasting the order in which "most people" use their money and the order God blesses. What is out of order in your life and how will you fix it?

Pray about it: Meditate on God's Word (Matthew 25:14-30) and this week's message.

Adoration: What can I praise God for in light of what this teaches me?

Confession: What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving: What can I thank God for in light of what he has done?

Supplication: What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?