

Sermon Discussion - 23 April 2023

Read Luke 16:1-15 together.

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

Some people get uncomfortable when pastors talk about giving money to the local church. They do not believe the church should ask for money. Some people see giving to the local church as an obligation of Christians that funds the budget. And when it comes to giving, it may be hard to measure the impact your personal giving has. So what is the importance of giving to your local church?

Observation *Discovering the context*

- In this story, Jesus is speaking about the principle of being a good steward (manager). Why do you think we should learn from Jesus using a negative example of stewardship instead of a positive one?
- Have you ever had a negative example, teach you a positive lesson? What was it, and what did you learn?
- How are you demonstrating stewardship over your gifts, talents, and abilities?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. One great nugget that we can take from this parable is that nothing belongs to us. When it comes to the Kingdom of God, everything belongs to him, and we have the responsibility to steward over what we have for a time. What are some things in your life that you are holding on too tightly? What do you need to give back to God?
2. Jesus was not commending the manager on his dishonesty, but was commending him for what instead?
3. How does being faithful with a little lead to being faithful with a lot?
4. How is faithfulness impacted by taking an eternal perspective?
5. What does it look like to serve money? What does it look like to use money to serve God?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Is there any place in my life that God is calling me to take drastic action right now with the abundance He has given me?
- How am I currently using the resources God has gifted me to help others in need and to spread the gospel?

- Is money drawing me closer to worshipping God, or drawing me away from worshipping God?

- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?