

Sermon Outline

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH ALL OUR STUFF? | Geoffrey Lin

Bible Reading: Luke 12:13-21 (p.1484), Luke 16:1-15 (p.1491)

Gospel Generosity		
24/8	A God who is rich in mercy	1 Chr 29:1-20
31/8	What should we do with all our stuff?	Lk 12:13-21; Lk 16:1-15
7/9	Calling all gospel patrons	1 Tim 6:11-19
14/9	Putting it into practice	1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8:1-4

Recap of Talk 1 (A God who is rich in mercy)

1. God made us to enjoy everything which belongs to Him (even though He didn't need to)
2. God saved us from our sins (even though we were deserving of His wrath)
3. In Christ, God shows us the meaning of "sacrifice for the sake of others"
4. generosity ≠ giving to God = giving BACK to God what comes from His hand (1 Chr 29)

1. God gives generously (1 Tim 4:4-5)

1 Chr 29:14 But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and **we have given you only what comes from your hand.**

1 Tim 4:4 For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer.

Mt 5:43 You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. **He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.**

2. An abundance of possessions can be dangerous (even if not immediately deadly) (Lk 12:13-21)

Lk 12:20 But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

1 Tim 6:7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it

Lk 12:15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

3. What does Jesus tell us to do with our wealth? (Lk 16:1-15)

- i. when it comes to wealth, make sure you accumulate stuff which will last

Lk 16:13 No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**

Mt 6:19 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 **But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- ii. when it comes to wealth, there IS a better way!

Lk 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.

So what, for us?

i. admit our enormous capacity for self-deception

Gen 6:5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

"What the heart loves, the will does, and the mind justifies" (Thomas Cranmer)

Further reading: Gregg Ten Elshof (2009) *Self-deception and the Christian Life*

ii. ask God to help us to want Him more than we want His blessings

Q. Do we link our economic prosperity to our relationship with God?

Q. What do you call it when someone loves the gifts more than they love the Giver?

*You came unequalled, undeserved/To be what we were meant to be/
To serve, instead of being served/To pay for our perversity/
So when we stumble set us right/Command our lives as you require/
May all your gifts be our delight/And you our Lord our one desire* (Christopher Idle, b.1938)