

Sermon Outline

CALLING ALL GOSPEL PATRONS | Geoffrey Lin

Bible Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-19 (p.1693)

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
 - "it's easier giving away other people's stuff" (you really ought to try it!)

Recap of Talk 2: What should we do with all our stuff? Two intriguing parables from Jesus:

1. The rich fool: "life does not consist in the abundance of possessions"
2. The shrewd manager: "use worldly wealth so you'll be welcomed into eternal dwellings"

1. Command those who are rich in this present world ...

1 Tim 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

- hope in wealth (which is so uncertain) vs hope in God (who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment)

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?'"

- riches in this present world vs treasure for the coming age

Q. What does "do good, be rich in good deeds, be generous and willing to share" mean?

1 Tim 5:8 Anyone who does not provide for their relatives, and especially for their own household, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

1 Tim 1:15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to **save** sinners —of whom I am the worst.

1 Tim 4:16 Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will **save** both yourself and your hearers.

2. Some important FAQs:

FAQ #1: is this "salvation by works?"

1 Tim 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

FAQ #2. What should we give to? Gospel ministry or charity?

FAQ #3. Who are "those who are rich in this present world"?

Lk 21:1 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

3. Some not-so-famous Gospel Patrons from our family history ...

i. The women who supported Jesus and the first disciples

Lk 8:1 After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. **These women were helping to support them out of their own means.**

ii. The first Christians who hosted churches in their homes

Lydia hosting the first church in Philippi (Acts 16:15); Priscilla and Aquilla and "the church that meets in their house" in Ephesus and Rome (Rom 16:3-5; 1 Cor 16:19)

iii. William Tyndale (1494-1536) and Humphrey Monmouth

iv. Those who provided start-up funding for our church and our first minister

v. Rev. Tong Sam Lin Theological Scholarship

4. So what, for us?

2 Cor 8:1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, **their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.** 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, **4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people.**

*What can we do in God's work/To prosper and increase
The Kingdom of the Living God/The reign of the Prince of Peace
What can we do to hasten the time/The time that will surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God/As the waters cover the sea.
Arthur Ainger (1841-1919)*