

We Give: God Blessed Us To Be A Blessing

"Audio Visual Living", Part 3 of 4
Pastor Vince DiPaola

I) GIVING: THE EVIDENCE OF WHAT WE VALUE

The Parable Of The Shrewd Manager

1) How we use money can ___ INFLUENCE OTHER PEOPLE ___.

"Jesus told his disciples: 'There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. 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.' The manager said to himself, 'What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg— I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'"

"So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 'Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied. The manager told him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.' Then he asked the second, 'And how much do you owe?' 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied. He told him, 'Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'" (Luke 16:1-7, NIV)

2) How we use money has ___ ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES ___.

"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings." (Luke 16:8-9, NIV)

3) How we use money reflects _HOW MUCH GOD CAN TRUST US_.

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?" (Luke 16:10-12, NIV)

4) How we use money reveals ___WHAT WE REALLY LOVE MOST_.

"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." The

Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, 'You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.'"

(Luke 16:13-15, NIV)

II) GENEROSITY: BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

How To Give Back To God And Bless Others

1) Excel in the grace of ___ GIVING LIKE CHRIST DID FOR US ___.

"But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving...

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

(2 Corinthians 8:7 & 9, NIV)

2) Give to God from both a ___ JOYFUL AND SINCERE HEART ___.

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV)

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others."

(2 Corinthians 8:8, NIV)

3) Remember that what we give _ALWAYS COMES BACK TO US_.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously... And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

(2 Corinthians 9:6 & 8, NIV)

***The Audio Visual End-Of-The-Year Giving Opportunity is all about...**

- i) A chance to give generously so LCC can better achieve its mission.
- ii) A chance to give generously so our missionaries can better achieve their mission.
- iii) Helping us give generously so we grow into "Audio Visual" people.

Lakeshore Community Church

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