

HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW

May 14/15, 2022

Matt 6:19-21, Matt 25:14-30, 2

Cor 9:6-8, Leviticus 19: 9-10

Sermon by Pastor Josiah Nordgren

Sermon Based by Pastor Vance Hartzell

Family Moment by Andrea Manual

FAMILY MOMENT

- Read Luke 12:32-34 together.
- It's important for our kids to understand that giving and being generous is less about the amount and more about our hearts.
- Pastor Josiah said it this way, "The rhythm of giving was given to align our hearts to heaven."
- Giving is so much more than just giving our finances. When teaching kids about giving, talk about the three Ts: time, talent and treasure.
- Discuss ways your family can give your time to glorify God. How you can you serve and show love to someone by giving up some of your time?
- Help your children to identify their talents. What are they good at? How can they use that to bring glory to God and show love to others?
- And our treasure. It's important to talk to your kids about tithing. Considering that many of us do this on-line or through automated giving, it's likely that our kids never actually see us giving our money. Use this opportunity to discuss why your family gives and why it's important. If you can, share a story about how you've seen God work through your finances.
- Lastly, come up with a way to demonstrate a generous heart with what you already have. What is something you currently have (without going out to buy it) that your family can use to spread God's love? Maybe you could bake cookies for a neighbor, make a card and mail it to a friend, give food to the homeless, spend time with an elderly family member, leave a very generous tip, etc. As a family, come up with a plan to use your time, talents, and treasures to bless others this week.
- Be sure to share God-sightings (indications of His presence, His works or His character) afterwards!

THINK ABOUT IT

Pastor Josiah said that life was not measured by how much we own (Luke 12: 15b). The problem isn't having money and possessions, rather it's the posture of our hearts. The problem is a heart that always wants more rather helping people with our excess. This is why Jesus says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6: 19-21.

1. What's your view of money?
2. Has it changed since becoming a believer?

TALK ABOUT IT

The way we think about money is extremely important. Jesus taught more about money than about faith and prayer. Why? That's because money, more than anything else, can shape and mold who we are as Christians. We can grow in constant greed and selfishness or we can grow in passion to use our possessions to help others. Money can affect the very purpose of what we were created for. Pastor Josiah said in Leviticus 19:9-10 that farmers in the Old Testament were taught about having a "rhythm" of giving to the poor. The word "rhythm" implies giving away repeatedly, not just once, but continuously.

1. What if we had a rhythm of giving outside of our church?
2. How would it change our church? How would it change the community?

Owner vs. Manager

Psalms 24:1 it says, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." It is always important to remember that God owns everything in this world. He owns the home we live in, the car we drive, and even the vacations we take because without Him, none of those things would be possible. Therefore, it is important to remember that we are simply "stewards" or "managers" of everything he has given to us. He is the owner and we are the managers of our "possessions." It's all up to us how we handle His possessions: as a faithful manager, a selfish manager or a generous manager. One day though, He will settle the accounts of the things He gave to us.

1. Please read Matthew 25: 14-30 as a group.
2. What are your thoughts after reading this parable?

LIVE IT

So, how will we handle what He has given to us? It is clear that God expects us to be good stewards. Most Christian financial counselors recommend the 10/10/80 rule. First 10 percent to the Lord (tithe), second 10 percent towards savings and investments, last 80% for our daily needs (e.g., food, clothing, housing, transportation, entertainment, etc.). We must remember that when we tithe, we are not giving back a portion of our income; we don't "give back" what is already His. The second thing to remember is that God doesn't need our money. Giving is God's way of raising people with surrendered hearts. He wants us to learn to trust and love Him. Giving is an extension of our worship.

- Has this week's teaching given you a different view of giving?