

"Discipleship as Stewardship"

Luke 16:10-18

Why can I trust the Bible? ([Week 1 of 4: The Right Books](#))

- Watch video together, use study guide for discussion (study guide sent via email)

LEARN

1. Read Luke 16:10-18 and ask someone to share the big idea from the sermon. What did you find challenging from the sermon?
2. What does Jesus mean when He says in v. 17, "But it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one dot of the Law to become void?"
 - a. A "dot" when misplaced in a sentence can change the whole meaning; Jesus affirms the unchanging authority of Scripture. God's Word doesn't evolve, rather it endures. We do not get to tweak it or soften it. When we soften God's Word, we silence the Word. Jesus shows that God's Law remains binding and authoritative until the end of the age.
3. How would you describe the word "stewardship" to a non-believer?
 - a. Stewardship comes with the understanding that all good things are from God; We've been entrusted with many things to manage for the glory of God and his purposes - the things we have are not meant for us to get attached to; Faithful stewardship means that we acknowledge that we, nor the things we think we own, are actually ours, but rather they are things God has entrusted to us to use for his purposes
4. Many misunderstand the phrase, "God knows my heart." What does God's word say about our heart? Spend a few minutes referencing passages that answer this.
 - a. Jer. 17:9 ⁹"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?"; Prov. 27:19 ¹⁹"As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man." Matt. 6:21 ²¹"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Mrk. 7:20-23 ²⁰And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." Luk. 6:45 ⁴⁵The good person out of the good treasure of his

heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”; Rom. 1:21 ²¹‘For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.’

PRACTICE

1. Jesus gives three tests of true discipleship. What are the three tests mentioned in the sermon, and which of them exposes you the most?
 - a. (1) handling of resources, (2) standard of righteousness, or (3) your submission to revelation (am I faithful to obey the word?)
2. Reflect on your discipleship. Are there seemingly small resources or opportunities in your life that you may be overlooking or not stewarding as faithfully as you should?
 - a. Are there people around you in need of discipleship that you won't spend time with? When someone approaches you with a problem, do you take time to pour into them or would you just point them to directly to counseling? Could you play a bigger role in your Small Group and supporting your leaders? Are there things God has given you that could be used in the work of ministry that are instead only used for your pleasure? We must remember that all we have belong to God and is on temporary loan to us - what we have has been given to us by God as a trust to use in the service of others. Like Scott said, “The wealth test is a worship test.”
3. Is there something in your life that you're too attached to which could be preventing you from being enriched with true riches from God?
 - a. Those who reject God's teaching on resources (including money) cannot be righteous; The righteousness test is a heart test and we must use Gods' word for that - we must soberly consider that God cannot be fooled in where the affections of our hearts are at; Just because something you love is going well in your life, don't assume God is pleased with it
4. Could there be idols in your life that dictate your heart's attention and preoccupy your mind? If your answer is “no,” do you have someone who helps with your accountability that would confirm that, or would they say otherwise?

- a. Many "good things" can still become an idol; This is a recurring question we should ask ourselves about what consumes our thoughts, time, and resources; Without allowing someone to speak truth in our life, we can often fall prey to not realizing idols in our life - God's word is key in this, but brothers and sisters in Christ can also be helpful

Exercise: Discuss or role-play a situation with a person who clings to an incorrect understanding of, "God knows my heart." How would you graciously and lovingly interact with them and point them to the truth?

- God isn't lenient, or 'cool' with our sin; God knowing your heart isn't the solution - it's the problem and here's why! (share Gospel); We can't console ourselves with good intentions, instead we must turn away from what God hates (sin) and toward what God loves; etc

CHANGE

1. Is there something that you are worshipping that instead God has called you to steward? How do you right that relationship and steward these things to God's glory rather than be ruled by them?
 - a. Examples: work, finances, spouse, children, retirement, time/comfort
2. Is there an area of your life where you've been a "self justifier" implying God's leniency to your sin? What does repentance look like for someone who has redefined sin or minimized Scripture?
 - a. Repentance means submitting to the authority and sufficiency of God's Word. It looks like a person laying down their edits and returning to what God has actually said—not what they wish He said.