

TALKING POINTS WALKING POINTS

2019.11.17



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. *—Psalm 145:11*
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. *—Joshua 22:5*

Questions for Discussion & Application

- Pastor Doug stated that the first principle of stewardship is that God is the **owner** of all that I **possess**. Make a list of as many categories of your possessions that you can think of (cars, homes, jewelry, money, boat, guns, tools, musical instruments...everything!).

Now write "God's" over each category. Is that hard to do? Why or why not?
 Have you ever thought of these things in this way? Why or why not?
 Are there any of these which you would be unwilling for God to "repossess"?

- How clear of an idea do you have about where your money goes each month?

Jesus said to "follow the money"—to look at your checkbook—to determine where your heart really is (Matthew 6:21). If you did this, what would you learn about yourself?

Think back to a high-ticket item you've bought (a bass boat, a car, a house, stocks...). In what ways have you seen your heart "following" that possession? Be specific!

- What percent of your spending advances God's kingdom? Mark your answer on this graphic:



Are you OK with that answer? **Should** you be? Why or why not?

- In what ways has God used money—both giving it to you and taking it back—to get your attention? Would you tell us about it? What lessons about following Christ did you learn from those experiences?
- How do you think God will evaluate your stewardship of his possessions thus far?

Are you being a faithful steward of God's possessions? What evidence do you have for that conclusion?

What steps could you take to improve your stewardship?

Application-Challenge

Keep these four principles in mind:

- God owns it all. We are owners of nothing; stewards of everything.
- We are to use our God-given resources to advance God-given goals.
- God uses money and possessions to prepare us for His coming Kingdom.
- Stewardship requires responsible action.

Sermon Summary Key Passage: Matthew 25:14-29

Daniel Webster once was asked: “What is the most profound thought that has ever entered your mind?” Do you know how he responded? He said, “The most important thought I have ever had was that of my individual responsibility to God.” In fact, when he made that statement, he became so emotional that he had to excuse himself. When he returned, he spent the next 30 minutes talking about the responsibility he felt of managing the resources that God had entrusted to him.

When it comes to our responsibility to manage our God-given resources, many of us haven’t accepted the fact that God is the rightful owner of all that we possess. This is the starting point for any discussion on money management. We assume that because God has given us cars to drive, houses to live in, and a bank account to draw upon, that somehow, we are the owner of those things. It is just not true. God owns it all and the owner has the rights, and the steward has the responsibilities. We are to use our God given resources to advance God-given goals (Matthew 25:14-19).

When I truly begin to believe that God owns everything, whether I have a lot or a little, whether my bank account is moving up or moving down, I maintain a steady course. If I truly believe God owns everything and I have a financial setback—let’s say that I lose a job—I am not as likely to dip down into the depths of despair because I understand that what I lost, I never owned anyway. It belongs to God. As Job said, “The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.”

Every spending decision is a spiritual decision. You can’t fake stewardship. Your checkbook reveals all that you really believe about stewardship. A person who has been a Christian even for a short while can fake prayer, Bible study, and going to church, but he can’t fake what his checkbook reveals. Maybe that’s why so many of us are so secretive about our personal finances. Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” If you really want to know what you value in life, follow the money trail. Take a look at your checkbook.

God uses money and possessions to prepare us for His coming Kingdom (Matthew 25:20–23). If we demonstrate faithfulness in handling the resources God entrusts to us, he will entrust us with much more in the future (Luke 16:10–12). Worldly wealth is a tool. God uses money to get our attention. He gives and he takes away. He uses money and possessions as a tool to shape us in our Christian life—to help us grow in our trust and faithfulness.

It also is a test to see if He can trust us with more. Finally, wealth is a testimony. As Christians, one way we should distinguish ourselves is by our attitude toward the things God entrusts to us. How much we have isn’t the issue. We may be the richest person on the block or maybe the poorest. It is how we manage our God-given resources that should distinguish us from our neighbors. Good stewards are rewarded, poor stewards are disciplined. Stewardship requires responsible action. Are you being a faithful steward of God’s possessions? What evidence do you have that leads you that conclusion? What steps could you take to improve your stewardship?

Talking To God About This Week’s Message

“Heavenly Father, today I want to be a ‘doer’ of the Word, and not just a ‘hearer’. Amen.”

Talking To Others About This Week’s Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, “*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*”, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week’s sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) is a simple way to study any topic.
Let's use it to learn more about biblical attitudes toward money...

Monday— Study Luke 12:13-21

Tuesday— Study Philippians 4:11-19

Wednesday— Study Hebrews 13:5

Thursday— Study Proverbs 12:10

Friday— Study Proverbs 11:28

Saturday— ***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord tomorrow with your church family,*** study 2 Corinthians 8:1-15.

Need blank copies for doing more
"Five Question Bible Study"?
e-mail: Dan.Clement.TCC@gmail.com

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would **this text** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]