

## The 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, October 29, 2023

### “A Life of Gratitude: Faithful Stewardship”

#### Luke 16:1-13

“For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.” (1 Timothy 6:10)

Money is a \_\_\_\_\_ to be used for God’s \_\_\_\_\_ in our life and it is also \_\_\_\_\_ our character, our \_\_\_\_\_, and our priorities, and even our faith.

“There was a certain rich man who had a manager handling his affairs. One day a report came that the manager was wasting his employer’s money. So the employer called him in and said, ‘What’s this I hear about you? Get your report in order, because you are going to be fired.’” (Luke 16:1-2)

Jesus isn’t telling us we should be \_\_\_\_\_, but rather, like the manager, we should be shrewd \_\_\_\_\_ of everything that God’s given us.

“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?” (Luke 16:10-11)

### PRACTISING FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

**#1. Practising faithful stewardship means using opportunities \_\_\_\_\_.**

“And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light. Here’s the lesson: Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.” (Luke 16:8-9)

We often think of shrewd in the \_\_\_\_\_ sense, as being synonymous with words like:

**Shrewd =**

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

Jesus isn’t calling us to be sly or conniving, but rather reminding us that there’s a difference between being \_\_\_\_\_ and being \_\_\_\_\_ and we

should be shrewd in how we use the things that God has put into our lives.

**Shrewd = *Phronimos* =**

To be shrewd is to see the \_\_\_\_\_ and seize the \_\_\_\_\_  
– to be willing to sacrifice present \_\_\_\_\_ for the prospect of future \_\_\_\_\_.

“Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.” (Luke 16:9)

Being shrewd—having sound \_\_\_\_\_ and clear \_\_\_\_\_  
—helps us to realize that money and possessions are \_\_\_\_\_ and limited to this world. The only wealth that is lasting and that will endure into eternity is that which has been \_\_\_\_\_ in the lives of others, for the sake of Christ and His \_\_\_\_\_.

“For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain that we will take nothing out.” (1 Timothy 6:7)

We can either use them to \_\_\_\_\_ our own needs and desires and to glorify ourselves; or we can make the most of every opportunity and use them in ways that bring life to others and \_\_\_\_\_ God.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

We either bank it here or in \_\_\_\_\_. One makes far more sense, if we see our lives as being meant for something \_\_\_\_\_ than just this short, fragile human existence.

**Where is your heart? Are you storing up treasures on earth or in heaven?**

**#2. Practising faithful stewardship means using material possessions \_\_\_\_\_.**

“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities. And if you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?” (Luke 16:10-12)

The foundation of Christian stewardship is that we don’t \_\_\_\_\_ our stuff. Everything we are and everything we have comes from \_\_\_\_\_. He entrusts

it to us as \_\_\_\_\_.  
money \_\_\_\_\_ our character, values, \_\_\_\_\_, and faith. God entrusts us with the things we have and then He \_\_\_\_\_ to see what we do with them—to see how much He can \_\_\_\_\_ us and how much we trust Him. He’s watching to see the \_\_\_\_\_ by which we spend, save, and share what we’ve been given. And so we need to be \_\_\_\_\_ with what we’ve been given.

“A person who is put in charge as a manager must be faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

It’s all about \_\_\_\_\_. If I can be trusted with the \_\_\_\_\_ things, I can be trusted with \_\_\_\_\_ things. The \_\_\_\_\_ is also true, if I don’t use the little things well, how can I expect to be given bigger things?

How faithful we are with the things that God’s given us is a \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_. It show us what’s really \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives.

If you want to know what’s \_\_\_\_\_ in your life and where your \_\_\_\_\_ are, take a look at your bank book and credit card statement, and where you spend your \_\_\_\_\_ and energy.

We can’t \_\_\_\_\_ our lives. We’re meant to live \_\_\_\_\_ lives. Everything is \_\_\_\_\_ and you can learn a lot about someone’s faith from their \_\_\_\_\_.

God wants to entrust us with \_\_\_\_\_—He wants to use us in powerful ways; but He’s watching to see how \_\_\_\_\_ we use what we’ve already been given.

“Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give generously to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this, they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may take hold of real life.” (1 Timothy 6:18)

Money is a test—it’s not about how much we \_\_\_\_\_, but rather how we \_\_\_\_\_ what has been \_\_\_\_\_ to us.

**How do you use what God has given you?**

**How faithful are you in the little things?**

**#3. Practising faithful stewardship means serving God \_\_\_\_\_.**

“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

(Luke 16:13)

Notice Jesus doesn’t say we shouldn’t serve both God and money—He says we \_\_\_\_\_—it’s \_\_\_\_\_. There can only be one #1 in our life, and whatever’s \_\_\_\_\_ place in our life is our \_\_\_\_\_—what we worship; where we place our trust and \_\_\_\_\_; and focus our time and \_\_\_\_\_.

If we make money our \_\_\_\_\_, it will take our time and attention away from \_\_\_\_\_.

Holding money too close can \_\_\_\_\_ our view of God and other people and keep us from being faithful \_\_\_\_\_.

What I’m saying is we need to keep our \_\_\_\_\_ straight. Wealth is to be \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_. We can either be stewards of it or \_\_\_\_\_ of it.

If we don’t \_\_\_\_\_ our money, it will manage \_\_\_\_\_!

“And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” (Luke 12:19-20)

We need to be rich towards \_\_\_\_\_ and not \_\_\_\_\_.

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have because God has said never will I leave you, never will I forsake you.” (Hebrews 13:5)

We can either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_—we can hoard things for ourselves or use what we have—what God has given us—to faithfully serve Him.

**What are you relying on—what are you living for? Who do you serve—the almighty dollar or Almighty God?**



“What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul.” (Mark 8:36)

**How well have you stewarded the things that God’s entrusted to you?**

**How faithful have you been in little things?**

**How grateful are you?**