

The Test of our Trust Mt. 6; Luke 16

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov 13th

As Christians, we're often "torn" between trusting the temporary (wealth) and the eternal (God). Jesus repeatedly spoke of the dangers of this detour! (Mt. 6:19-24) Money has been described as a universal Passport to everywhere except heaven, & Provider for everything except happiness. God describes it as "filthy lucre" and "Unrighteous Mammon" and warns: "The love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:10

Money makes a great servant, but a terrible master. The Laodicean's chose a "Comfortable Compromise" between these two "Trusts", and ended up nauseating God! (Rev 3:14-22)

How do we make money our servant instead of our master? Luke 16

1. Understand Stewardship. Luke 16:1 *"a certain rich man had a steward..."*

A. A Steward manages the resources of another. Oikonom'os: manager, overseer, fiscal agent

- 1) He has access to the "master's" resources.
- 2) His needs are provided by the "master".
- 3) He invests those resources for the Master. Lk 19:13 *"Occupy (invest, trade) till I come."*

B. What's the primary qualification of stewards? 1 Cor. 4:2

"It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." Pistos': trustworthy!

- 1) The greatest ability is Dependability!
- 2) We often struggle to know if we can really "trust God", seldom ever considering whether God can really trust us! (Who has the better track record?)

If Stewardship is to manage or oversee the resources of another...

2. What are we to manage for God?

A. "Our" Treasures. (Resources) Ps 24:1-2 *"The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein."* (See also 1 Cor 4:7 and Rev. 4:11)

- 1) Forgetful stewards usually become Faithless Stewards! **Deut. 8:14,17-18**
- 2) Our Giving is a "gauge" (Test) of our faith and our faithfulness. Lk 16:11-13
Lev. 27:30 *"The tithe...is the Lord's"*
Mal. 3:8,9 *"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me ...in tithes and offerings...
Ye are cursed with a curse"* (See also Haggai 1:4,5)

Deut 14:22,23 *"thou shalt truly tithe all thine increase...that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord..."*

- 3) God charges Pastors to warn others of the seduction of temporary wealth and to encourage them to use their wealth to invest in eternity. **1 Tim. 6:17-19**

B. Our Time. Eph. 5:15-17 *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."*

- 1) The Main lesson about the unfaithful steward is that when he realized he was running out of time, he did something about it! Lk 16:3-4; 8

C. Our Talents. 1 Peter 4:10 *"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

- 1) Most squander their "gifts" on themselves or on "this world". *"I buried thy talent"* Mt. 25:25

D. Our Testimony. (The Gospel) 1 Thess 2:4 *"But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts."*

1) God has committed the treasure of His truth to us! 2 Cor. 4:7

"We have this treasure in earthen vessels" So we must:

a) **Guard** it. 1 Tim. 6:20 *"Keep that which is committed to thy trust"* Jd 3 *"contend for the faith."*

b) **Invest** it in others. 2 Tim. 2:2 *"What thou hast heard... commit to others"*

Mt 10:8 *"freely ye have received, freely give."* Lk 19:13 *"Occupy (invest) until I come"*

Conclusion:

- God entrusts us with: Treasures (Resources) Time (Opportunities) Talents (Abilities) So that through our lives (testimonies) we can "invest" in the eternal "treasure" of the Gospel. 2 Cor. 4:1 *"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;..."*
- Satan seeks to sidetrack us with a preoccupation with the temporary. 2 Cor. 4:4-7 *"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not... For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."*

Illustration: In Jan. 2010, on what would have been Elvis' 75th Birthday, Priscilla Presley was interviewed by Mat Lauer. *"I think Elvis would always be a part of music, no matter what, It was in his blood. I don't know if he'd be doing rock 'n' roll right now; I think that maybe he'd be going into gospel. Maybe even preaching a little bit. He loved to teach and loved the Bible."*

Elvis once confessed to his (AG) preacher: *"Pastor, I'm the most miserable young man you've ever seen. I've got all the money I'll ever need to spend. I've got millions of fans. I've got friends. But I'm doing what you taught me not to do, and I'm not doing things you taught me to do."*

[Http://hollowverse.com/elvis-presley/](http://hollowverse.com/elvis-presley/)

Do you think Elvis Was a Faithful Steward of his Treasures, Time, Talents, and Testimony?

Are You?

Someday we'll all hear: *"give account of thy stewardship"* (Luke 16:2; 2 Cor. 5:10)

Elvis won 3 Grammy awards, all for Gospel music! In 1972 he won one for the album

"He touched Me". One of the songs: "He is my Everything" says:

"I remember my days of darkness, Without sunshine or sight to lead the way;

But a whisper of His voice softly calling, To the arms of my Maker to stay!

He is my reason for living, Oh He is the king of all kings

I long to be His possession, Oh, He is my everything"

After the lighting and thunder, After the last bell has rung

I want to bow down before Him; And hear Him say well done"

This is a reference to the final Judgment where God will reward the faithful stewards, and punish the unfaithful. Mt. 25:14-30. Jesus spoke clearly warned that those who were "faithless stewards" would not hear "well done" but rather *"Thou wicked and slothful servant... Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury."* (also 1 Cor. 3:15)

We will all eventually hear: *"give an account of thy stewardship"* Luke 16:1,2 (2 Cor. 5:10)

Are you ready for that day? Pr. 3:5-10

The Faith Promise ministry is a practical and effective way of investing the Treasures, Time, Talents and Testimony God's entrusted to us in order to:

"Prove the sincerity of your love" 2 Cor 8:8

"lay up treasure in heaven" Mt 6:20

