

Make an Impact Through Giving: Be a Part of the Story

Sunday a.m. 4/22/2018

Make an Impact Through Giving is about what God's word teaches us about money and stewardship

- ✚ We have talked about the fact that **God Owns It All**
- ✚ We answered the question **"What Happens when we give?"**
- ✚ Today, **Be a Part of the Story**

➤ We will talk today about the 90% God entrusts us to manage

Parable of the Talents **Matthew 25:14-30**

- ✓ An owner was going on a trip
- ✓ He entrusted his possessions to three servants while away
- ✓ He gave one servant 5 talents, another 2 talents, and another 1 talent
- ✓ The servants who received 5 and 2 talents doubled their money
- ✓ The servant with 1 talent buried his
- ✓ The owner rewarded those who doubled their money
- ✓ The owner fired the servant who buried his talent and took the talent

✪ **Jesus used a story about money because it is a common denominator in our lives**

■ All of Us Deal with Money in Our Life

- ❖ Many people are intimidated by money
- ❖ It makes no sense, it is frustrating and exhausting to think about
- ❖ Money discussion sounds like Charlie Brown's teacher: "Waaa waaah"
 - ✓ **I wrote the bills in the early part of our marriage, but not for long**
- ❖ Discussing money with a financial planner sounds like this question

If you were in a canoe with four flat tires, paddling down the middle of a cornfield, how many pancakes would it take to cover a doghouse?

✪ **Repeat the question**

It doesn't matter, because a chicken doesn't eat ice cream anyway!

⊗ **Talking about money for some people is the same as talking about canoes with four flat tires in a cornfield**

- ❖ The questions and the answers make no sense, but regardless of our feelings about money, we have to deal with it
- ❖ Thankfully, God has provided the wisdom we need in the Bible
- ❖ We've talked about honoring God with our tithe, but I confess, that is where I have stopped in the past

✚ We teach give, but what about the 90% that we still have

✚ We have a responsibility with the 90%

- **I want you, our staff wants you, to be good stewards of your money**

⊗ **We must follow His word in the management and stewardship of everything He has provided**

■ **God has Blessed Each of Us**

Matthew 25:14-15 (NKJV)

Notice: “each according to his own ability.”

- **Increase your ability to manage what God has given you**
 - ✚ Find people who honor God to help you manage your money
 - ✚ Attend “I Was Broke. Now I’m Not.” At 5:30 p.m. in The Foundation

Proverbs 15:22

Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

- **More of the story**

Matthew 25:16-18 (NKJV)

- **How did you do with the money God gave you last year?**
 - ✚ Did you tithe? Did you manage your money wisely?
 - ✚ Do you want your answer to be different a year from now?

Joseph Sangl, author of ***I Was Broke. Now I'm Not.*** tells this true story

- ✚ A family of four, two parents, two teenage children, was struggling with their finances and asked Joe to provide financial coaching
- ✚ They were preparing a budget and Joe asked how much they planned to spend on groceries this month and they said "\$150"
- ✚ Joe thought they misunderstood his question, so he asked again
- ✚ "I didn't mean per week or per person this month. I meant, how much are you planning to spend for your family of four for an entire month?"
- ✚ "\$150," they responded again. "We're hoping to reduce it to \$100."
- ✚ Joe put \$150 into the budget
- ✚ They continued listing expenses and they came to "the goats."
- ✚ "We belong to an agricultural organization and we have goats. Every day, we drive 45 minutes each way, twice a day, to feed the goats."
- ✚ "How much for the goats each month?" Joe asked. "\$400," they said
- ✚ Joe entered \$400 in the budget, immediately the budget was overspent
- ✚ After reviewing the budget, Joe shared, "You can win with your money!"
- ✚ "But we are in the negative! How is that possible?" they responded.
- ✚ Joe asked, "When are you going to feed the goats again?"
- ✚ "This afternoon," the family responded.
- ✚ Joe said, "That's great! Here's what you are going to do. You are going to drive over to the goats, kill them, then eat them! You can solve your goat "outgo" problem and your grocery problem at the same time!"
- ✚ The family stared at him in shock and never invited him back!
- ❖ "Bill, that is a ridiculous story. I don't have any goats!"

🌟 **Admit it, we have all had "goats" at one time or another in our life**

- ✚ Beth and I had an antique booth at one time
- ✚ For a while, it was fun, then it became a job...it was our goat

➤ **What is the “goat” that you need to go home today and slaughter?**

✧ **God owns it all – our giving and the management of the rest! And He cares greatly about what we do with it.**

■ **We Will be Held Accountable**

Matthew 25:19

❖ There will be a time when we must settle our accounts with God

✧ **We will be asked “What did you do with my son Jesus?” and “What did you do with what I gave you?”**

➤ **There are three 3 categories of people in this story**

• **Those who managed well**

Matthew 25:20-23 (NKJV)

✚ **Thank God**

✓ Thank Him each day for His word and being true to it!

✚ **Tell others**

✓ Tell others how God’s Word has helped you

✚ **Guard yourself**

✓ Do not put our trust in the provision instead of the provider

• **Those who managed poorly**

Matthew 25:24-30 (NKJV)

✧ **This guy did not end up very well because fear motivated what he did with the money his master gave him**

❖ Most of us are fearful of how to handle, invest money

- **Those who are missing from the story**

- ❖ There is a third category of people not mentioned in this story
- ❖ They represent the majority of people in our country
- ❖ They have spent everything God gave them and financed even more

✪ **Nearly 70% of people live paycheck-to-paycheck and are struggling to make ends meet**

- ❖ This is how their story might sound in the parable Jesus told

“I know you gave me one talent. I spent it. Then I financed several other things and now I need a loan to repay that too.”

Video: Don't Buy Stuff You Can't Afford

- ❖ This video is real for many people

✪ **We want you to manage the 90%; to honor God with your money**

➤ **It is possible to be Financially Free**

➤ **Your situation might be so incredibly tough that you would say, “It would take a miracle for me to get out of my mess!”**

- ✚ John and Ashley Marsh's life as a married couple was a mess
- ✚ John was doing drugs and was a million and a half dollars in debt

✚ Their bank account was overdrawn by \$99,000; divorce was in the future

✚ John headed to the attic one day to hang himself

✪ **Instead he met Jesus, who told him not to kill himself but instead to die to himself**

- ✚ John came downstairs, told Ash he got saved and she said he was lying
- ✚ He wasn't and months later she too found new life in Jesus Christ

- ✚ John and Ashley's marriage slowly came back from the dead and they wanted to tell others about it.
- ✚ John and Ashley wanted to demonstrate the redemption they had experienced through Christ
- ✚ Using their gifts and their experience, they decided to do it in Opelika, Alabama, the dying town where they lived.
- ✚ Their conglomerate of businesses, the Marsh Collective, has helped resurrect the city over the past 20 years

Close

❖ Wealth can never save us

Psalm 49:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches,
⁷ None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him—

✚ Jesus paid the ransom for us...His life

✪ **Be Part of His Story, trust Christ as your Savior today**