

**REPOSITIONING OUR FINANCES
MOVING FROM THE BONDAGE OF OWNERSHIP
TO THE FREEDOM OF STEWARDSHIP
1/31/2016**

Luke 16:1-3

I. Introduction

- A. We are learning to reposition our hearts and lives in every area of our life. We want to be “all in” so we can “have _____” that God has for us in 2016.
- B. The Bible in many places teaches to focus on positioning not _____!
“Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all of these things will be added unto you.”
(Mat. 6:33)

We will especially see today, in regards to finances, that God wants us to focus more on being faithful than He does on being successful.

C. Some observations about what Jesus says in this text:

1. It is clear that God’s plan is to prosper you and wants you to manage _____ resources for Him than you presently do. *“If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones.”* (vs. 10)
2. Our attitudes and actions in regards to money and possessions will have a “game changing” _____ on our lives. If we’re faithful with money, we will have “true riches” in other areas of our lives now and rewards in eternity.

But, if we have a Biblically dysfunctional relationship with money that dysfunction will spill over into other areas of our lives with _____ effects. (relationships, emotions, character, perspective, spiritual growth and impact).

“My counsel to you is to win friends for heaven by right use of money, which is so easily used in wrong ways, so that, when it comes to the end and money is a thing of the past, you will be welcomed by friends waiting in their eternal homes.” (Luke 16:9 Beck translation)

3. Jesus makes it clear that you can’t _____ God and money. (vs. 13)

Thesis: When we see ourselves as owners of things those things begin to own us (they become our master). When we become stewards of money and things, things become our servants and _____ that God uses to teach us great things and enable us to be a great blessing to our families, to others, and the cause of Christ around the world!

- *“Everything we possess will either be a tool or an idol.”* –Howard Hendricks
- *“When a person gets wealth either God gets a partner or Satan gets a fool.”* – Wayne Myers

II. In the parable we are studying there are three kinds of people that represent different attitudes towards money: beggars, diggers, and _____.

- A. A beggar mentality is living with a “spirit of poverty” controlled by the _____ of not having, that makes us afraid to let go and envious of others. The attitude is, “What is yours should be _____.” Some dangers: envy, slothfulness, dishonesty, gambling, worry, passivity...
- B. A “digger mentality” can be someone who may be successful but money and things have a negative control over their lives. Their attitude is: “What’s mine is _____!”

Temptations include looking to money for security, significance, or as a way of being in control. They easily _____ other priorities and become money or work obsessed, easily look down on others with less, easily lose their joy and harm their relationships over money issues, and also struggle with generosity.

A digger is generally blind to their problem with possessions. We should all ask someone who knows us well, if they've noticed if money ever makes us funny. (react in negative ways that don't reflect the kind and generous heart of God)

- C. A steward is someone who has the attitude, "What's mine is _____." They don't see themselves as entitled with anything but _____ with everything they have. They are confident that they are channels of a God of infinite resources and are free to be generous. They experience financial peace. *"When your heart starts believing right your money starts behaving right."*

III. Steps to move from the bondage of ownership to the freedom of stewardship (Luke 19:1-10 story of Zacchaeus)

- A. Observations about Zacchaeus
1. He was in bondage (insecure, lonely, money obsessed, and ashamed).
 2. His encounter with Jesus totally _____ and transformed His heart towards possessions, freed him from the bondage of ownership to the freedom of stewardship.
- B. How he experienced financial "salvation"
1. He saw and sought freedom from his dysfunctional relationship to things.
 2. He saw possessions through the eyes of Jesus.
 3. Jesus became His _____ instead of money.
"If your eye is good your whole being will be full of light." (Mat. 6:22)

Treasure is what you believe makes life "worth it" and makes you "worthy." When Zacchaeus came to realize that He was Jesus' treasure, He couldn't help but want Jesus to be His treasure. To truly treasure Jesus is to be _____ from the power that materialism had over your life. Once you're free from money (an idol) you're free to use money (tool) to be a blessing.

4. When Zacchaeus' heart changed his _____ changed.
- C. Practices of a faithful stewardship that reposition our finances for blessing
1. Faithful stewards set aside the first fruits (tithe) of their income to give to God by _____.

The parable teaches us that the way to freedom begins with giving not getting, by focusing on _____ not seizing. *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be food in My house; and test Me in this," Says the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi 3:10)*
 2. Earn money by working diligently as unto the Lord. (Col. 3:23)
 3. Joyfully live _____ within the means God has provided for the present season of their lives. (Phil. 4:10-11)
 4. They have a spending plan to tell their money where it should go
 5. They learn to have productive financial conversations with their family
 6. They _____ faithfully for a rainy day (Prov. 21:20)
 7. Their hearts are open to God's whispers to give generously beyond the tithe as he leads. (2 Cor. 9:6-9)

(Answers: I. all, possessing, more, impact, devastating, serve, tools II. stewards, fear, mine, mine, neglect, God's, entrusted III. repositioned, treasure, free, practices, faith, sowing, content, save)