



THURSDAY 11.04.10

Matthew 19:16-17, 20-22

This story offers many lessons. The young man was wealthy, probably due to an inheritance. In this society, there were the very wealthy and the very poor, but this had little to do with one's religious life. The thought was that if you were rich, it was because God had blessed you because of your goodness, and if you were poor, it was probably because you had done something wrong or your ancestors had. Jesus knew this and challenged the young man at his weakest point — his money!

- Why is it that for many Christians the last faith door they open is the money door? We open the door to worship, prayer, the Bible, but when it comes to money, it somehow seems less important — or more important — depending on one's perspective.
- Why did the young man go away sad? How might generosity release him of his enslavement to his stuff?



FRIDAY 11.05.10

Luke 12:13-15

This man has surely been put upon by what he considered unfair circumstances. He was the younger brother, so at the death of his father, his brother got the bulk of the inheritance. Some brothers might divide the inheritance evenly, as was their choice, but not this brother. When he receives the opportunity to make a request, he wants Jesus to demand that his brother give him his perceived piece of the pie. The younger brother had missed the point.

- Why does Jesus consider greed something to guard against?
- If possessions are not what our lives are made up of, then just what makes up a life of value?
- How do we actually guard against greed? What can we do? What might giving generously have to do with it?
- John Wesley had an answer for this, "Earn as much as you can, save as much as you can, give as much as you can!"



GROW • PRAY • STUDY

A RESOURCE FOR DISCIPLES SEEKING TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS & SERVE THE WORLD ...

Series: *Thank You*
Message: *Thank You for Your Passion*
Scripture: **Philippians 2: 1-13**

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:



Introduction

Just as Jesus has a personality, so does the Church and so does the believer in Christ — characteristics, things that mark the Christian life both in what we do and who we are. The fact that we serve a God with an identifiable character calls us to model our lives after Him. In this same decision, we have God promising that if we choose to live for Him, our lives will be full, purposeful and satisfying. The Christian life is Jesus we believe in and attitude adjustments because of that belief.

The Bible uses imagery like “press on,” “upward call” and “have this attitude.” These word ideas in Philippians chapter 3 speak to a life with a powerful personality that moves forward, makes a difference and is directed by an attitude that identifies with Jesus Christ.

In this same chapter of Philippians, it talks about appetites becoming the God of some, then affirms that the loyalty of the Christian is to our “citizenship in heaven” and not to the offerings of the world that make promises they cannot keep, unlike Christ who can keep the promises He makes. When appetites are served, a satisfying life is impossible. But when God is served . . .

God, I am often tempted by my own appetites, a hunger for things that have proven not to satisfy me. Today I choose a new way, a different personality and a commitment to you, Jesus. I place my loyalty in your Kingdom and celebrate a citizenship in heaven. Please guide me!



TUESDAY 11.02.10

John 12:1-3

This is one of the most amazing stories in the Bible. In it we see a generous moment that is acted out for the sake of generosity itself. A woman poured out an extremely expensive perfume, something she could have sold to buy herself almost anything, but instead she chose to give as an act of worship to Jesus Christ, an act of love that asked for nothing in return. With this, Jesus celebrates her gift as one that people would talk about from that time forward. This was not just an extraordinary gift, but it was a gift out of the ordinary.

- We often think that even when we are generous, the gift has to do something, buy something, help somebody; there has to be some kind of outcome. Why does Jesus elevate this generous gift even though there is no outcome, just a woman washing the feet of God with her hair?
- How is giving and generosity an act of worship and devotion to God in your life?



MONDAY 11.01.10

Acts 4:32-35

The early church had a very special, new and God-created personality, a culture of generosity. These new Christians were generous in every way, welcoming others, giving to the poor, supporting one another, reaching out in remarkable ways. In a Roman world of selfishness, this people of God took on the very personality of their Savior . . . they were formed around Jesus Christ. They would change, and then they would change the world!

- Why do you think that a self-centered life is doomed to deteriorate day by day? Why do you think that a life centered in Christ, a personality defined by giving oneself away is destined to mature and grow into meaning and abundance?
- How does today’s church model in tangible ways the generosity of the early Christian church? What keeps us from stepping up in the same ways?



WEDNESDAY 11.03.10

Matthew 6:25-26

A few years ago we did a survey asking people to name what they worried about most. One person turned in a very simple answer, “You name it, I worry about it”. I think that the human condition almost demands worry. We want security. We want certainty. We often think that more will bring us that, yet in our culture, it seems the more people have, the more they worry. It is striking to see people in Rwanda who live from hand to mouth worry far less than Americans who live in comparative affluence.

- Why do you think this is true? Why are we afraid we will lose what we have? Why are we afraid to not get what we want? Why are we afraid to trust God?
- What are the ways that giving, living out generosity, can alleviate anxiety and create peace and joy? The Bible says, “Godliness with contentment is great gain!”
