



“Stewardship and a Positive Return”

Mt. 25:14-30, 2 Cor. 8-9, Jn. 12:23-32

Sunday | October 10th, 2019 | Pastor Patrick Bowler

CONSULT THE SCRIPTURES

Matthew 25:14-30

2 Corinthians 8, 9

John 12:23-32

(See also Matt. 6:19-24, Eph. 1:3, Lk. 19:10-27)

CONSULT THE SCHOLARS

Biblical Giving Principles (2 Cor. 8, 9)

Giving Principle	If present...	If absent...
Cheerful	Excitement and joy to participate in the work of Jesus.	Giving feels like a loss and not a privileged gain.
Sacrificial	Giving hurts a bit; it requires going without something.	Lack of faith and trust in God's provision. Other priorities take precedent over God.
Regular	Church giving occurs on a regular basis.	Laziness, poor planning, and indifference lead to sporadic giving (usually guilt-based).

DISCUSS

1. There are two extreme positions when it comes to teaching in the church on the subject of money: (1) Prosperity Theology, (2) Poverty theology (briefly describe each). Which extreme are you most vulnerable to? Why? How were you challenged by the sermon?
2. Read Matt. 25:14-30 and discuss. This text speaks to more than just money, but as relates to money, what notable observations should be made in the text? What is the master after?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 8, 9 and discuss. This text is the largest on the subject of giving in Scripture. What stands out to you? Pastor Patrick said the issue of giving is one of the heart not law. What did he mean? What is God after with regards to giving financially?
4. Walk through the above chart and discuss. If comfortable, where do you find yourself on the chart and why? If you currently give, what compels you? And if you don't currently give, what is the barrier?
5. Respond to the following quote from C. S. Lewis:

(C. S. Lewis) "I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc., is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charities expenditure excludes them."
(Mere Christianity; p. 86.)
6. What's your next move in light of this sermon?