



This week's sermon

Jesus Gives

Mark 12:38-44

1. The ones most worthy of honor are those who seek it the least.
2. Study of the Word should make a person wise, not proud.
3. Be like the widow who gave all: give all.
4. You can be a giver or a taker. The ironic reality? Those who give all, get all. Those who take, lose all.

Digging Deeper into the Message

steward: *stoo-erd* a person who manages another's property or financial affairs; one who administers anything as the agent of another or others.

Think of the things that you do well, enjoy doing or have a desire to learn to do as you read 1 Peter 4:7-11 and 1 Peter 5:5-7. List some ways that you are using the gifts God has given you and what your attitudes about them are. Are there some things you see a need to adjust?

List the things Paul tells us to do in Romans 12:1-3. What outcome would you expect as you do these? Note where the "measure of faith" is from.

Read Romans 12:4-8 and describe how you understand the members of the church functioning. What attitudes does Paul seem to expect in this description? Where do you see yourself in this passage?

1 Corinthians 7:17-24 is a good passage to reflect on if you are tempted to compare yourself with others. Are there things that need to be set aside or picked up in order to be a good steward, acting as God's agent?

As we reflect on being stewards for King Jesus, you may find this article from The Gospel Coalition encouraging: *The King of Kings and the Kings of Earth* by Jonathan Leeman <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-king-of-kings-and-the-kings-of-earth/>

Community Group

Icebreaker: What is a favorite song from your younger years that you used to sing or hum a lot? (Can you treat us to a few bars of it?)

Discussion Questions:

Read the text: Mark 12:38-44. What in this passage strikes you?

Read the first MAP point. Related to this, Pastor Mike quoted Matthew 11:29, how do you see humbleness tied to rest for our souls?

The point was made that we should seek to give honor, not crave it. What are some healthy ways to do this?

Read the second point. What are some ways that you see the Holy Spirit working in your life through God's Word, making you wiser? How do we guard ourselves against pride in what we have learned?

Read the third point. What do you think it means to give all? How is giving all related to worship?

The mindset that everything we do is worship and we are all borrowers of God's things should have effects. What would you expect to see?

Read the last point. What outcomes do you see of being either a taker or a giver?

What do you think of the CS Lewis quote Pastor Mike used?

"It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth "thrown in": aim at earth and you will get neither."

What other thoughts about the sermon would you like to discuss?

Application: Each day this week, evaluate your how you are managing God's things. Pick a specific area (thoughts, time, material goods...) pray and ask if there is anything that should be done differently.