

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of Jan 20, 2019



Pastor Temple 8:15, 9:30, 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Anything to share about the past week? About follow-ups from last Sunday, on Do You Need a Bigger Barn?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener Questions: What do you believe influences the formation of a person's work ethic? or What are some common sayings or phrases about "work" that you agree with?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Luke 12:13-21. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

⁶ In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to keep away from every believer who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you, ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary, we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you. ⁹ We did this, not because we do not have the right to such help, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you to imitate.

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat." ¹¹ We hear that some among you are idle and disruptive. They are not busy; they are busybodies. ¹² Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the food they eat. ¹³ And as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good. ¹⁴ Take special note of anyone who does not obey our instruction in this letter. Do not associate with them, in order that they may feel ashamed. ¹⁵ Yet do not regard them as an enemy, but warn them as you would a fellow believer.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- When visiting the church, the apostle Paul had a right to a portion of the food there but chose to work for it anyway to set a good work ethic example and to follow the community rule (verse 10). Why do you believe this rule was necessary in this community (verse 6)?
- The scriptures advise avoiding indebtedness if possible (Proverbs 22:7). How do you respond to the statement, “When your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep is your downfall?”
- Psalm 24:1 says “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it, for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.” This message is expressed again by King David in 1 Chronicles 29:11-16. How then is our working and giving appropriating God’s wealth and not our own?
- One in every six sayings of Jesus and one in every three parables, taught about money (the proceeds of work). In NT teachings, God’s children are co-heirs and stewards. What are characteristics of a good steward?

Other Related Scriptures (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read Matthew 25:14-30. Here Jesus presents the idea of wealth entrusted to another for a period of time in the form of a parable. What happened to the first two servants who doubled their investment?
- What happened to the one who just hid what was given to him?
- How might what is given to the servants in the parable represent both wealth given and personal talents given to individuals in the kingdom of God?
- What kind of responsibility do we feel toward God in the use of our talents and money?
- What does “share your master’s happiness” mean to you (vs 30)?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional scripture above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How is the use of our income an exercise of faith on our part?
- Pastor Temple mentioned that while the tithe (10%) is offered as a guide for giving in the Old Testament, Christians under the New Covenant are not under Mosaic law. But he also shared that for him, 10% in charitable giving as a whole (to the church and other charities combined) has been his guide for many years. Do you agree that setting overall financial giving goals according to a percentage of income rather than simply choosing arbitrary quantities is a better approach?
- If you are not presently tithing, would you be willing to look at your estimated charitable giving in 2019 in terms of a percentage of income and consider an incremental step toward tithing?
- Do you agree that a good approach to giving is to do so systematically (in regularity) and cheerfully (in our attitudes) as well? Why or why not?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- The word for “cheerful giver” in Luke 6:38 also could mean “hilarious.” How might a joyful attitude in which gifts are given be a witness to God as well as the gifts themselves?
- Do you believe generosity can be contagious like laughter? Any stories to share about this?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.