

“Built Together Part 12 - Treasure” (2-4-24)

Series Review: Section 1 - Living in Community / Section 2 - Gifts for Building up in Love

Key Verse: Eph. 2:22 - “In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.”

This Section: Built up by the Spirit (God-given gifts and abilities are used in love to build up His Church)

Review: Stewarding our Gifts to love & build the church - Spiritual Gifts, Time & Talent

Today: Stewarding our Treasure

1) Exchange Striving for Stewarding (Luke 12:13-34)

Luke 12:13-15 (ESV)

(13) Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” (14) But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” (15) And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Note: What motivated the brother? What question does Jesus ask? Who's really in charge of your money - do I just want God's involvement when things aren't going my way financially, or is He the king of my finances always?

Luke 12:16-21 (ESV)

(16) And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, (17) and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ (18) And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. (19) And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.”’ (20) But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ (21) So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Note: Notice this is a story of the Best Case Scenario - a rich man with abundance. But one thing was lacking, and it was the main thing.

Luke 12:22-30 (ESV)

(22) And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be **anxious** about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. (23) For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. (24) Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! (25) And which of you by being **anxious** can add a single hour to his span of life? (26) If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you **anxious** about the rest? (27) Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. (28) But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! (29) And do not **seek** what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be **worried**. (30) For all the nations of the world **seek** after these things, and your Father knows that you need them.

Note: Our Finances are one of the primary places where we are stretched & can grow in faith! (vs. 28)

(22) **Anxious** - troubled with cares

(29) **Seek** - Particularly, to seek after, look for, strive to find, require, or demand

(29) **Worried** - anxiously fluctuating between hope and fear

We can exchange that anxiety, striving, and worry . . .

Luke 12:31-32 (ESV)

(31) Instead, **seek** his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. (32) Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Note: Anxiety, striving, and worry - can all be dealt with when we have a Kingdom mentality towards our financial situation. We have a Good Father - all we have comes from His hand.

Luke 12:33 (ESV)

Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.

Note: Exchanging anxiety for seeking His Kingdom first is not just a state of mind. It's a way of life! Kingdom life is one of others-centered love, generous giving, and investing with an eternal mindset!

Luke 12:34 (ESV)

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Note: Example of this - our House (our biggest financial investment) . . .

- We love & enjoy it - we spend time there & invite friends & family to be with us
- We pay attention to its needs/repairs
- We dream about improvements, we spend time & money to make those changes

2) Stewarding in our Church Community

Establishment of Israel as God's People - God gave them a home (a place of worship) where he would meet with them. He asked them to invest & build it. This took their Time, Talent, & Treasure

Full Story (Exodus 25:1-9, 31:1-11, 35:4-35, 36:1-7, 38:21-31, 40:33-38)

Exodus 25:1-2, 8-9 (ESV)

(1) The LORD said to Moses, (2) "Speak to the people of Israel, that they take for me a contribution. From every man whose heart moves him you shall receive the contribution for me. . . (8) And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. (9) Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.

Note: Giving of their Treasure - their generous contribution towards the building of God's pattern & plan

Exodus 31:1-6 (ESV)

(1) The LORD said to Moses, (2) "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, (3) and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, (4) to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, (5) in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft. (6) And behold, I have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan. And I have given to all able men ability, that they may make all that I have commanded you

Note: Giving of their Talent - their God-given ability, used to build the Tabernacle

They were invited to give & serve using their God-given talents & possessions.

*Now take note of what comes next - Watch the principle come to life that Jesus described: where our Treasure goes - our Heart is invested . . .

Exodus 36:2-7 (ESV)

(2) And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. (3) And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, (4) so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, (5) and said to Moses, "The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the LORD has commanded us to do." (6) So Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, "Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing, (7) for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

Note: You see - where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. They were invested in what the Lord was doing in their midst, and what they were doing together. It produced an atmosphere of generosity!

Establishment of The Church - the same thing takes place . . .

Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

(42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. (44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common. (45) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. (46) And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, (47) praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 4:32-35 (ESV)

(32) Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. (33) And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. (34) There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold (35) and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Conclusion & Application: In the church - how this unfolds as a way of life . . .

- **Tithing** - it's God's, not mine, and someone else dictates where it goes.
(OT, Jesus, & NT - the principle of tithe & sacrificial giving is preached & practiced throughout)
- **Offering** - sacrificial giving as need & opportunity arises (example: without much notice this summer)
- **Serving** - investing our time & talent (example: house cleanup & organization this week)
- **Generous spirit** - General atmosphere producing care for each other - aware of needs, tending to them