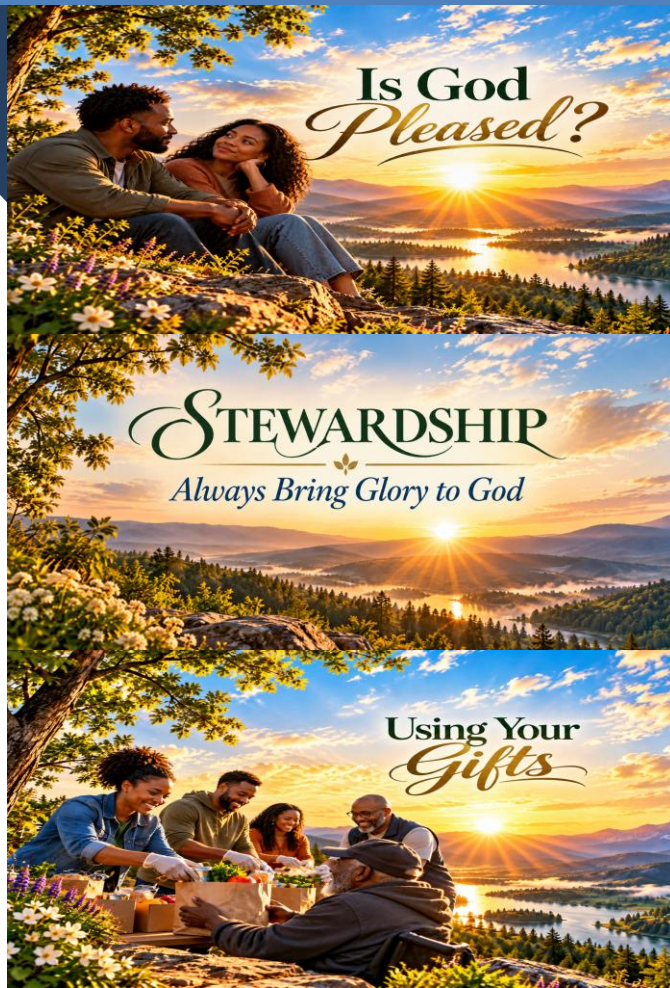


St. Luke Church Athens, GA
ZOOM Bible Study 864-064-8616
408-638-0968 ... Dial in



STEWARDSHIP

Using Your Gifts ... Is God Pleased

Luke 12:16-21

Rev. Dr. Clarence Jackson

st.lukeathens2020@gmail.com

stlukeathens.org

Enhance Your Faith, Set Boundaries



SNAPSHOT

Using Your Gifts ... Is God Pleased (Luke 12:16-21)

Who: *Jesus tells a parable about a rich man whose land produced abundantly.*

What: *The man receives more than enough, but his plans focus only on storing, keeping, and enjoying the abundance for himself.*

When: *Jesus tells this story after someone in the crowd asks Him to settle an inheritance dispute.*

Where: *During Jesus' public teaching ministry as a large crowd gathered around Him.*

Why: *Jesus warns against greed and teaches that life is not measured by how much we possess.*

How: *The story challenges us to examine how we use what God has given us and whether our stewardship brings Him glory.*

Scripture Luke 12:16-21
What is your takeaway from the text?

16. Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

17. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’

18. So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

19. And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”

20. But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

21. “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

Using Your Gift

Jesus tells the story of a rich man who received an abundance, but his plans centered on himself. This story challenges us to examine how we use our own gifts, resources, and opportunities.

God is pleased when we faithfully use what He has given us to serve others. We bring glory to God when we use our gifts to strengthen His kingdom and fulfill His mission on earth. God expects us to be intentional about growing His Kingdom with every gift, opportunity, and resource He places in our hands.

***What does pleasing God reveal about His work in your life?
Think in terms of living on a daily basis.***

Is God Pleased?

*(1). **Honor Your Gifts:** Recognize and appreciate what God has placed in your life because it is there for a reason. Our natural talents become gifts when we intentionally use them for the Lord. **Every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10***

*(2). **Help Beyond Yourself:** Your gift was never meant to benefit only you. Use your gift in a way that directs attention to God rather than yourself. **Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Philippians 2:4***

*(3). **Highlight God's Glory:** Use what God has given you to serve, strengthen, and encourage building God's kingdom. Keep the spotlight on God so that He receives the attention and all the glory. **By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. John 15:8***

***How do we honor our gifts and help beyond yourself?
Why is it important to serve in the kingdom?***

Living Sacrifice

What does it mean to use your gifts for God's glory? Is God pleased with how you are using your gifts? Our gifts are given to honor God and serve others. Our gifts should point people back to God, not just draw attention to ourselves. Jesus uses this story to teach that stewardship is not just about what we have, but how we use what God has placed in our hands.

Oftentimes, the issue is not whether believers are blessed, but what they do with the blessings God gives them. Stewardship asks us to look beyond possession and examine how faithfully we use what has been placed in our hands. The goal is not simply to have more, but to use what we have in a way that pleases Him.

What does it mean to examine yourself?

What happens when the spiritual man meets the physical man?

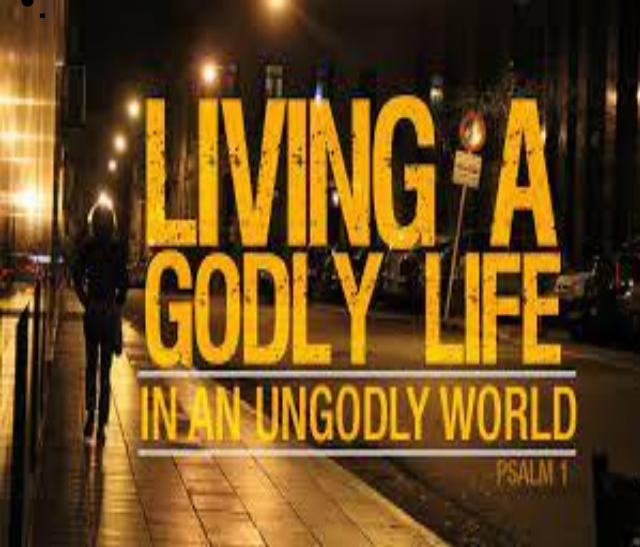
2 Corinthians 13:5-7; Psalm 139:23-24

More of God and Less of Ourselves

God is pleased when we use our gifts to make an impact in His kingdom. Our gifts should serve people, strengthen others, and reflect His character. We must be careful not to waste what God has trusted us with. God looks at our motives as well as our actions. Faithful stewardship requires us to be intentional with every opportunity God places before us.

Stewardship should leave evidence that God was honored by how we lived. Today, let us be encouraged to use every gift and opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. We will all make a difference when our desire is to please God and not man. What a mighty God we serve! Yes and Amen.

***Let's talk about
Covetousness, Mammon, Functional idolatry***



Easy As 1...2...3

We Can, We Will, We Must

Honor, Help, Highlight

(1). Honor Your Gifts: Recognize what God has placed in your life and put it to work. Use your abilities with gratitude, discipline, and purpose.

(2). Help Beyond Yourself: Use your gifts to meet needs and strengthen others. Stewardship becomes ministry when what you have becomes a blessing to someone else.

(3). Highlight God's Glory: Let the results of your gifts point back to God. Keep the attention on Him so your service becomes a testimony of His goodness.

What is your point of application?

(Bonus Question)

What is empathy and how do you know if you have it?



Prayer / Benediction

STEWARDSHIP

Using Your Gifts ... Is God Pleased

Everything God gives us is to draw others closer to Him and build His kingdom. How we use what we have today will shape what God entrusts to us tomorrow.

The more we grow spiritually, the better we get physically, the closer we get to Christ. Believers count themselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

***Luke 12:21;** So is he who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.*