

STEWARDSHIP | WEEK 2

Our race

Many of us have said something about wanting to hear “Well done, good and faithful servant.” I challenge you to examine the context of that verse this week.

Read | Matthew 25:14-30

- Note that the context of the passage is how the servants used resources entrusted to them.
- What stands out to you in this parable about money? What surprised you about the passage? Did anything bother you?
- What is God calling you to act on in light of these verses?

Many find it odd that the master gave differing amounts to each, and some say it's not “fair.” James 1:17 says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above” and Deuteronomy 8:18 says, “But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth”.

It is easy with money to compare and see what God has given others. We often do this to justify our purchases, giving plan, or even job choice. But does it help?

Hebrews 12:1 says, “let us run with endurance the race that is set before us”. Our role is to run *our* race—as in the “one set before us.” It is not to compare our race to theirs. God gives with His infinite wisdom, and based on His purposes, He gives as He wills. It is important to run in our lane.

Jealousy, envy, and greed can rear their heads in very odd ways. In Luke 12: 15 Jesus says, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

You don't need to “watch out” for certain other sins since you know you are doing them. But greed (and arguably many money-related sins) is hard to spot in the mirror. I think Jesus would argue here that we need to assume we struggle with greed, at least to some extent. A better question in light of our verses today might be, “To what extent are money sins impacting my decisions?”

- If needed, take a moment and repent of greed, envy, or jealousy.
- What purchase, habitual spending, or person came to your mind?

Trust the Lord's leading on following through with action. Begin to listen to the Shepherd's voice when you are convicted about comparing. How would the Good Shepherd guide you to handle this situation? Think ahead to a time when you might be in such a situation again and ask the Lord to help.

Do |

1. Make a list of resources that God has given you to be used for his purposes. How can you ensure you are using these for God's purposes and not for your own selfish purposes?
2. Share with your small group ways that you are going to be on guard against envy and greed.