

FIRST

SERMON NOTES

Week 3 November 7, 2021

“The Commitment”

Luke 6:32-36; I John 3:14,16-18;

I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:7;

Malachi 3:10



I. Jesus’ Teachings and Roman Culture

- A. _____ culture, in the first century, believed in a pantheon of gods who could care less about human beings.
- B. Jesus said “I want you to do good toward those who can’t or won’t do anything _____ for you.” (Luke 6:32-36)
- C. Jesus said “be _____ just as your father is merciful.”

II. Generosity That Changes the World

- A. The early Christians began to live out the values of generosity taught by Jesus and it changed the _____.
- B. Emperor Julian decided that there needed to be a revival of _____ in the Roman Empire and that Christianity had gone too far.
- C. Through Asbury in Mission (AIM), we strive to be “in mission” by _____ with ministries and organizations doing the work of Jesus.

III. Evidence of the Spirit

- A. _____ is an important aspect of discipleship.
- B. Jesus followers need to be _____ about a giving plan.
- C. The key to generosity is re-ordering or re-prioritizing your finances so you _____ first, save second, and live on the rest.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *November 8-13, 2021*

INTRODUCTION

Over the past two weeks we've looked at how to put God first in our living and our giving. We've looked at how to identify the idols in our life that compete with God for our heart. We've looked at John Wesley's famous ideas about giving. The one question that we have not addressed in the first two weeks is: "so, why do we give as Jesus followers?" Is it really necessary?

Monday: Matthew 25:34-40

In Jesus' story, both those welcomed and the ones turned away were surprised. We're one human family—and people treated unjustly, or facing poverty and illness, are "us," not "them." Jesus said in the end we are all his brothers and sisters, and we are all in some type of need. In what ways can you sense God reshaping your attitudes toward "the least of these" in your community and world?

Tuesday: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Why would God want us to give from free, grateful hearts without coercion or pressure? When have you felt the joy of giving freely from a grateful heart of love?

Wednesday: Luke 12:15-21

Jesus warned us to "be on your guard against all kinds of greed." What different kinds of greed have you experienced? How can you assess whether you are getting your sense of meaning and value from material things? How do you define "success"? How easy or hard do you find it to accept Jesus' teaching that "life does not consist in an abundance of possessions"?

Thursday: Matthew 25:14-23

Our culture tends to teach us to think, "I earned all this money and these possessions, so I can do anything I want with them." Jesus' story suggested that God has asked us to care for some of what God truly owns (not us) (*see also: Deuteronomy 8:12-18*). How easy or hard do you find it to make the inner shift from "I OWN all this" to "I'm a steward to whom God has entrusted these things to use for God's purposes"? How can faithful stewardship produce joy?

Friday: Matthew 13:44-46

Have you ever had to give up anything you thought was valuable to go "all in" for Jesus' kingdom?

If not, what might you need to give up at some point?

If so, has it been worth it?

MOVING FORWARD

Jesus came into a world where the religion of the Roman Empire did not value human beings. Jesus began a radical teaching that his followers should do good to all people and to be merciful because God has been merciful to us. The early Christians lived out his teaching of generosity and it changed the world. Generosity is an important aspect of discipleship. God doesn't want anything *from* you, he wants something *for* you. He wants you to grow in your relationship with Him and giving to His work in changing lives and transforming communities accomplishes that.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) Roman, B) good, C) merciful. IIA) world, B) paganism, IIC) partnering. IIIA) generosity, B) intentional, C) give.